



Rediscover Lucky Street

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Cool clothes for summer socials

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Rescuing history

When people age and die, their stories end up buried if no one acts to record them. Nine Taiwanese directors from the second generation of settlers who came from the mainland 61 years ago are taking the first steps to save their families' stories, and with them the history of an era lost.

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Investments shift from garlic to art

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Academics working to draft first immigration 'law'

By Li Zhixin

To serve the increasing number of immigrants and speed up government management, academics are drafting what could be the country's first immigration law.

Experts on migration are advising the government to learn from foreign countries in regulating immigration, said Zhang Jijiao, a researcher at the China Academy of Social Sciences' (CASS) Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology.

Zhang said the institute started a coalition with the International Immigration Law Association of Beijing Law Society and the Chinese People's Public Security University last year to tackle the issue.

It hopes its draft law may attract government attention.

"China's transnational migration management has long been focused on entry and exit based on economic considerations," he said at a forum on migration last Friday. "Unlike in the West, where strict and detailed laws on transnational migration go back a century, China's exit and entry administration only handles investment concerns."

He said current laws do not address immigrants' needs to pre-

serve their ethnic culture and customs, and to seek employment and education.

Zhang said inward migration reveals a nation's appeal, but to be competitive a country must resolve the social and economic issues tied to immigration.

"The first thing the government must do is classify transnational migrants into different categories, such as skilled or unskilled workers coming for skilled migration or investment migration, and then adopt management rules for each category," he said.

To succeed in globalization, China must attract a variety of investors and skilled workers to contribute to its development, he said.

"Because of global events – the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the Shanghai World Expo – and the booming economy, many foreigners are looking to us for an opportunity. A sounder immigration policy would enhance China's appeal," he said.

China, which borders many other countries, is bound to see an increase in immigration, Huang Xing, deputy director of the CASS Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, said at an international conference on "Migration in China and Asia: Experience



Experts say the surge of foreigners seeking opportunity in China makes immigration law a necessity.

CFP Photo

and Policy" last Thursday.

"China must adapt from being a source of outbound migrants and become a recipient of inbound migrants," he said.

According to the Bureau of Exit and Entry Administration under the Ministry of Public

Security, about 2.85 million – more than 10 percent of the 26.11 million foreigners who entered China in 2007 – came for employment.

Of the 538,892 foreigners who lived in China for more than six months in 2007, more than half worked at joint ventures or solely foreign-owned companies.

Local statistics project a trend of more foreigners staying in China for longer periods.

The Shanghai government announced last December that

the number of foreigners living there more than six months rose 14.1 percent year on year to 152,100 in 2008.

In Beijing, the number was 110,000 in 2008; in Guangdong Province it was 57,793. Guangzhou has an emerging African community.

Foreign residents will, for the first time, take part in the national census due to begin on November 11, giving experts and policy makers statistics on which they can base migration reforms.

City to give roadside parking meters yet another try

By Chu Meng

Parking meters will be installed along city roads for a second time after a failed experiment with the device in 2004.

The new meters will fully-electronic charging systems, said Meng Qiao, vice director of the Municipal Commission of Transportation.

"Through examination, research and spot trials during the past five years, we are well prepared to start a second trial of electronic metering for roadside parking in crowded urban areas," Meng said Monday.

Five hundred meters will be installed during the next two months. They will be compatible with IC cards and coins. If the trial is a success, parking meters will replace roadside parking attendants by the end of the year.

The city's history of parking-meter failures dates back to 1999, when the municipal government and transportation department installed 150 card-friendly imported parking meters at 5,720 roadside spaces by Chaoyangmen, Dongsi, Qianmen and Yongnanli.

"Few drivers were willing to purchase an IC card exclusively for that, and parking then was



Beijing's history of failed parking meter experiments date back to 1999. CFP Photo

less chaotic than it is today. Though everyone knew about the meters, no one was using them," said Yang Yi, a taxi driver who has been working since the 1990s.

In 2002, Industrial and

Commercial Bank of China cooperated with the transportation commission to issue IC cards for Beijing drivers, which could be used to pay fines and parking fees. A second batch of 6,010 meters were added to 12,000 roadside spaces across all city districts in 2004.

"No one bought or used the IC cards, so those meters were torn out," said Shi Qixin, an expert at China Intelligent Transportation System.

Shi said the same bottlenecks could kill the new trial.

"Price is the key concern. If parking is too expensive, few drivers will use the spots. If it is not expensive enough, the government will fail to recoup its maintenance costs. It is essential that cards for the new parking meters work on the current -IC card system," he said.

He said coin-friendly meters are the worst, because no one carries bags of change.

"We already know from Los Angeles that coin-operated parking meters break down all the time. This is one of the problems plaguing the American roadside parking system. Most cities there are already replacing their old meters with card-friendly ones," he said.

Business leaders advise mayor at council meeting

By Chu Meng

The Ninth Meeting of the International Business Leaders Advisory Council for the Mayor of Beijing opened Wednesday at the China World Hotel.

Thirty senior managers of multinational companies were appointed "Council Members of the Mayor of Beijing" at the meeting called by Mayor Guo Jinlong.

International business leaders present included chairpersons and CEOs from ABB Group, Daimler AG, ING, Panasonic, Baker & McKenzie and Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ. They have been asked to use their professional knowledge to present suggestions about how to make Beijing a "World City."

"During the past two years Beijing has continued its rapid economic growth. It has helped the financial industry and enterprises to grow, and has enhanced employment in many areas," Guo said during his keynote speech.

Through international busi-

ness advisors, the city can learn how to improve its industrial structure and promote sustainable economic development, Guo said.

Beijing must leverage its hosting of the Olympics to further develop into an internationally influential center of science, technology and innovation.

"Improving Beijing's industrial structure and living environment is key to its sustainable development," Hubertus von Grunberg, chairman of the Board of ABB Group, said.

He said that while urbanization is making China more prosperous, it is putting cities under intense pressure to expand access to social services, land, energy and water while maintaining a decent living environment.

"If Beijing is to achieve its goal of becoming a world city on a par with London, Tokyo and New York, it must maintain the momentum ... it began in the lead up to the 2008 Olympic Games," he said.

Demand for beauty

Investors chase after art

By Annie Wei

At a time of real-estate bubbles, bearish stock markets and speculation in garlic, people worldwide are becoming drawn to art as an investment instrument.

Earlier this month, an anonymous telephone bidder – believed to be a Chinese national – paid \$106.4 million (723 million yuan) for a work by Pablo Picasso at a Christie's sale in New York. It set a new record for the most expensive pieces ever sold at auction.

In April, a white jade seal commissioned by Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) was sold by Sotheby's to an Asian buyer for \$12.3 million, breaking the bid record for both white jades and imperial seals.

In China, there are an estimated 70 million art collectors and investors who engage in transactions worth 20 billion yuan a year. Experts say the number of players and their business are increasing at a rate of 10 to 20 percent per year.



New Chinese billionaires normally purchase top art works through anonymous telephone bidding.

Domestic art boom

Part of the credit for a booming domestic art market goes to television. Phoenix TV produced the first ever program on art connoisseurship in 2005, and since then has spawned several dozen similar shows.

The shows, most of which are broadcast during prime time, encourage viewers to start their own art collection. Art or antique experts are invited to judge if certain pieces are fake or not, and are asked to estimate their value. To excite the audience, some hosts even smash fake pieces in front of the camera.

The shows are rating very well yet criticized that they mislead viewers about the real state of the art market and provide incomplete, non-professional information.

Art experts say guests on the show do not have enough knowledge about art or antiques and are merely looking to make extra money through TV appearances. Some fake pieces, they say, were valued too highly in the shows, leading to an increase in studio audiences who fly in from other cities hoping their fake antiques will be judged a treasure.

Chen Peng, vice president of the Shanghai Collectors and Connoisseurs Association, says art collecting in the country goes back thousands of years and that each strata of society has its own taste.

He also said that while there are genuine art experts in China, there are also those who believe they are experts despite a lack of training and experience. "Even a real expert will not know enough to cover thousands of years of art history," Chen said, adding that it is no surprise "experts" make appraisal errors.

Zhang Weixing, who has been involved in art identification and investment for 10 years, considers the art market as risky as the stock market.

"A fake painting by famous Chinese artist Qi Baishi was valued in the millions on a TV show in 2006," Zhang said, "but in reality, it was not worth 100,000 yuan."

Looking for knowledge

"We noticed there has been an increase in demand for art knowledge since 2005," said Yu Runde, a teacher at Tsinghua Uni-



Antique collecting has become a popular trend among average investors nationwide.



Identifying valuable art pieces requires experience and knowledge.

CFP Photos

versity's Academy of Arts and Design who gives training in art verification, management and the market. He said he now opens three to four classes each semester, all of which are fully booked.

"Elderly students come because of their interest in personal collection, while middle-aged students are more interested in it for business," Yu said. "Women tend to have an affinity for jade," he said.

The classes cover both Chinese and Western art, especially contemporary art.

Yu said Chinese people are generally more interested in traditional art, but more want to learn about the contemporary world because of investment needs.

Wei-wei Wang, founder of Vivifart, a Beijing-based art fund, said a piece's value as an investment is the main consideration of Chinese buyers of contemporary art. These people do not buy because they are passionate about art, she said, but added that this sometimes helps them develop an interest.

Wang said formal training helps people become familiar with auction houses, good art deals and wise investment moves. She said the price of a work does not equal its real value. "The value of art should not be just a number. An eye for art is about taste and judgment. This takes a long time to cultivate," she said.

To develop taste and good judgment, Wang suggested visiting museums, art galleries, meeting art collectors and getting to know artists. She said a visit to museums abroad is one of the best ways to improve artistic taste as these art repositories play an important role in balancing the financial and aesthetic values of artwork.

Domestic museums – like Chinese art collectors – will prove their global influence with the passage of time.

Where to learn about art

Yu Tianhong, founder of Artvalue website and magazine, began introducing traditional and contemporary art as well as art investment information to mainlanders in 2006.

Yu says more people are becoming drawn to contemporary art, and many of them are the "new elite" who are well educated, have money and have traveled extensively.

To know more about traditional Chinese or contemporary art, Yu suggests attending training courses at top schools like Tsinghua and Peking universities, which invite some of the top art teachers and experts in the country. It is also a good idea, he says, to visit museums like Today Art Museum and the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), which hold regular lectures, workshops and have great art bookstores and their own publications.

"A comprehensive learning network about art in China has started to form," Yu said.

Interest in art becomes popular when the economy is good, says an old Chinese saying. But our times are proving that art becomes even hotter at economically uncertain periods of history.



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Sailing in the same boat

World amazed over sharp turnaround in China-US relations

The second round of the China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue earlier this week in Beijing drew global attention to the relationship between the world's powers.

"China and the US are crossing a river in the same boat, and few global problems can be solved by the US or China acting alone," US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said.

Senior officials from China and the US reached new and important consensus on bilateral ties during the Strategic and Economic Dialogue (SED) that ended Tuesday.

Leaders acknowledged the vitality of the dialogue that centered on economic and strategic tracks, initiated last year by President Hu Jintao and his US counterpart Barack Obama.

Hu said when he met with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner that he hoped the dialogue would play a greater role in boosting bilateral relations.

Clinton and Geithner, both special representatives of Obama, were joined in discussions by Hu's special representatives, Vice Premier Wang Qishan and State Councilor Dai Bingguo. They achieved consensus on bilateral relations, facilitating global economic recovery, anti-protectionism in interna-

tional trade, pushing forward financial reforms and crucial issues in international affairs.

On the issues of climate and energy, the US and China have built on the memorandum of understanding signed at the last round of the dialogue Tuesday, collaborating on new, clean energy research, including the establishment of the US-China Clean Energy Research Center.

(Agencies)



Hillary Clinton, US secretary of state (second from left) gets caught in a handshake between Timothy Geithner, US Treasury secretary (left) and Wang Qishan, China's vice premier.

CFP Photo

Opinion

Will China and the US be sailing in the same boat?

Relations between Beijing and Washington have improved after a rocky patch earlier in the year over US arms sales to Taiwan, Obama's meeting with the Dalai Lama and disputes over Internet regulation and trade.

Jon Huntsman, the US ambassador, also views China-US relations optimistically, saying this week's dialogue pulled the partnership back on the normal track. Earlier, the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was also cited as saying, "China and US are crossing

a river in the same boat."

But many Chinese people interpreted Clinton's statement as, "We are in the same boat, when the US is caught by storms and gets entangled in swirls of trouble." But what about when the gloom is gone?

While the US is a nation built on pragmatism and gains, Chinese culture gives top priority to relationship and a code of brotherhood.

Wang Fan, director of the International Relations Department at the China Foreign Affairs University, noted that the two countries

should focus on philosophy, culture and civilization. China-US relations should not only stay on the operational level, but share a vision for the common interest and stability of the international society, Wang said.

The 1972 starting point between the two countries' relationship was very high. During the first meeting between Mao Zedong and then-US President Richard Nixon, the two heads of state discussed philosophy, a rarity in the nations' diplomatic history.

In addition to philosophy, pres-

ent leaders should also talk about culture and civilization, Wang said. The US knows too little about Chinese culture and China does not pay much attention to the problem. "If China and the US want to have better cooperation and mutual trust, they should have a better understanding of each other," he said.

Wang said the current China-US relations are very complicated: characterized by both competition and cooperation.

In peacetime, the US strategy toward China is like a multiple-

choice question. The core of its strategy is to coordinate the choices; if this fails, constraints between these choices hinder the realization of the US' objectives.

Bilateral ties are a double-edged sword, he said. On the one hand they represent opportunities, but on the other, controversies. In this situation, attitude will make all the difference, Wang said. If the government has a sincere attitude, relations will be rosy; otherwise, internal contradictions will be exposed, he said.

(By Huang Daoheng)

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Yet another suicide

What makes young Foxconn workers jump?

By Huang Daohen

Another Foxconn Technology Group employee jumped to his death from a dorm window late Wednesday night only hours after Terry Gou Tai-ming, Foxconn president, apologized and promised to improve conditions for his workers.

It was the 12th fall and 10th death at the Taiwan company's Shenzhen factory this year.

People familiar with Foxconn's younger employees said most of the jumpers chose death because the company left them with "no other options."



Terry Gou, chairman of Foxconn's Taiwanese parent company Hon Hai Precision, apologizes to families of the jumpers at a May 26 press conference at the company's Shenzhen plant.

IC Photo

Militant management

Early reports blamed Foxconn's militant management and inhumane treatment of its workers for the suicides, but Xiang Tao, director of a Microsoft-subcontracted factory in Shenzhen, said there was a reason for the company's rigor.

Xiang, in his early 30s, was supposed to join Foxconn when he came to Shenzhen five years ago. He instead decided to work for another subcontractor.

"But I know a few of the past and current managers, as well as several line workers at subcontractors like Foxconn, and their stories have been far different from what the news has reported," Xiang said.

"Employees will say one thing to a reporter or investigator when they are under pressure, but they say something entirely different to a friend over a bottle of Johnny Walker," he said.

Xiang said Shenzhen is home to many factories like Foxconn Technology Group. These plants manufacture electronics and computer components for IT giants

like Apple, Microsoft and HP.

Each factory is staffed by many employees who barely have a grade school education. Foxconn, for instance, employs 400,000 people at its Shenzhen plant alone.

Controlling the traffic as the company feeds its staff and plans activities is a nightmare, Xiang said.

Xiang's factory, by contrast, has only 50 workers.

The military-like management is the only way to prevent chaos in a factory with so many bodies, Xiang said.

"We can't be one sided - on some level, we have to empathize with the managers who are struggling to keep 400,000 employees in line," he said.

A Foxconn worker's life

So why are young people dying? Xiang said they feel there are no other options.

Xiang said Gao Lanlan (alias), a 19-year-old assembly-line worker in Foxconn from a poor region in Guizhou Province, is typical of the recent suicide cases.

Xiang met Gao when she came

to work at his factory. It was Gao's first time outside her hometown. Gao was the eldest sister of four in the family and had to send as much money as she could back home from her monthly salary of 1,500 yuan.

Gao later moved on to Foxconn. The Taiwan company had a better name and paid an additional 500 yuan each month.

But Xiang said Gao started to complain about the new factory's odd requirements and how it would punish workers who broke its unwritten policies.

Most workers believed upper management either did not know about those practices or did not care, Xiang said.

Gao said she preferred to wash her clothes by hand as a stress coping mechanism. But washing her company uniform, which was marked "Dry Clean Only," carried a 100-yuan penalty.

When she was late to work she was fined 100 yuan. Refusal to work overtime would result in termination. Speaking while on the assembly line was another 100-yuan penalty.

Gao said some workers borrowed money to pay off their

salary, which rolled into the negatives after one too many fines.

The first month's salary was kept as a deposit for the uniform and other items. The company said the money would be returned after a worker's contract ended as his or her final paycheck. But Gao said she never heard of anyone getting back the full amount.

She currently works regular 10-hour days with one vacation day per month. She and her 12 dorm-mates share one small room, but none of them can communicate well since they all speak different dialects.

When asked about factory facilities like swimming pools, tennis courts, basketball courts, coffee shops and spas, Gao said she doesn't know if they exist: she said if they do, they are for upper management only.

Workers like Gao come as girls and leave as women, Xiang said.

"Gao's experience may not be the whole story, and everything I said is based on hearsay," Xiang said. "The point is that your iPhones and the like come at the expense of human suffering."

Policy changes to aid private economy

By Huang Daohen

Private business has been buzzing since the government made its latest move on May 13 to aid development of the non-state-owned economy.

But experts warn that more adjustments are needed before that policy can deliver results.

The new document "Several Opinions on Encouraging and Guiding the Healthy Development of Private Investment," known as "new 36 clauses," was released by the State Council as a follow-up to the cabinet's first document in 2005, "36 Clauses for the Private Economy."

According to the new clauses, private capital is welcome in infrastructure and basic industries and will be allowed to be used to establish financial institutions.

Supporters said the new policy would encourage more private investment and ensure steady economic growth.

Some experts expect the economy to slow down in the second half of the year due to a recent tightening of control over infrastructure and property investment.

But new private capital in education, public services and finance could help to create more jobs, experts said.

Many observers are urging caution. "The policy will be so difficult to enforce that I am afraid it will only exist on paper," said Zhao Xiao, an economics professor at the University of Science and Technology Beijing.

Zhao said private companies have long faced barriers in China, including unfair competition from state-owned companies.

Statistics show that private companies have invested in only 41 of the 80 domestic industries to date, while foreign capital has been invested in 62.

The new 36 clauses opened the door wider, but it may be too late, Zhao said. "State-owned companies dominate in industries like telecommunications, railways and financing. It is doubtful that new private companies could compete."

Zhao said the new policy is an important step in empowering private investors, but said adjustment is necessary before there can be results.

For instance, to encourage private investment the government should adjust how it allocates state capital, he said.

The new 36 clauses cover six sectors and 18 industries: detailed measures and supplements are expected to follow.

"It remains to be seen how many barriers to private capital they remove. It is a real test of the government's commitment to reform," Zhao said.

Officials around the country should listen to the suggestions of private companies in making policy, Zhao said.

It is the best way to ensure the new policy does not end up as another unenforceable law that will damage government credibility, Zhao said.

Background

Foxconn suicides

Foxconn Technology Group is a Taiwanese multinational whose main factory is located in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province.

It is the largest manufacturer of electronics, computers and computer components in the world. Foxconn's main factory produces the Mac mini, the iPod, the iPad, the iPhone,

Dell computers, HP motherboards, Nintendo's Wii, Microsoft's Xbox 360 and Sony's PlayStation 3.

The company employs over 400,000 workers at its Shenzhen factory alone. Earlier this year, Foxconn was brought to light by two reports by *China Business News* of its inhumane treatment of employees. And

after 12 of its workers attempted suicides in the past five months, the company has drawn greater public attention.

The local government in Shenzhen has launched a joint investigation into the suicides. The city's vice mayor Li Ming went to Foxconn this week to discuss measures to prevent such incidents from happen-

ing again.

The Shenzhen General Labor Union has also carried out a survey among the migrant workers in order to better understand the situation, and to oversee the needs of this group.

Apple, Sony and other Foxconn customers have started investigations into the company's practices.

Capital's plans for maglev meet objections



The public is curious about maglev trains, but residents living near the proposed railway in Haidian District are worried about health dangers from electromagnetic radiation.

CFP Photo

By Zhang Dongya

Plans to build a maglev connecting Beijing urban areas and suburbs are being met with objections by residents worried about its health ramifications.

The China Academy of Railway Sciences (CARS) posted a notice about the project on its website early this month to solicit public opinion. It provided the railway's length, number of stations and construction timetable. The train line, tentatively called S1, would run through Mentougou, Haidian and Shijingshan districts.

Mentougou residents expect it to spur local development, but people living near the proposed railway in Haidian are concerned about the health dangers of electromagnetic radiation.

Some say the distance between the train line and their homes would be only 15 to 20 meters, way below the 200 to 300 meters prescribed in foreign countries. They also worried about noise pollu-

tion from the trains, and suggested more subway lines or a maglev line built entirely underground instead.

CARS released an update on the project May 12, saying the underground section of the railway has been extended from half a kilometer to almost 3 kilometers. Some Haidian residents believe the change was due to their concerns, but CARS said the design adjustment had nothing to do with public opinion.

Heated discussions about the project are also on going in academics circles. Chang Wensen, a professor at the National University of Defense Technology, says low- to medium-speed maglev trains have many advantages, including less exhaust and noise and lower building costs than subways. He also says maglevs' electromagnetic radiation is too weak to be of any health concern.

Some experts, however, disagree with Chang, saying maglevs have very real health risks, including long-term

diseases.

Local scientific experiments have not helped much. Sun Guangsheng, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, conducted a test on the intensity of maglev radiation, and his results show that the radiation of low- to medium-speed maglevs falls below the internationally prescribed threshold – no different from that of regular trains. But few give much credence to Sun's study since the country has no existing safety standards for electromagnetic radiation.

Meanwhile, the maglev project will proceed as scheduled. According to CARS, construction will be conducted in two phases: the line's western section, from Shimenying, Mentougou District, to Pingguoyuan, Shijingshan District, will be under construction from September till 2013. The eastern section, from Pingguoyuan to Cishouli, Haidian District, will begin work in 2013 and finish in 2016.

Comment

More about education than health

While people's concerns for their health are understandable, the idea that a maglev line will somehow endanger their health if they ride it or live near it is sheer nonsense. Many tests were conducted during the 30 years of the German maglev development program, including tests for the strength of magnetic fields, vibrations and noise levels. The results were quite conclusive that there was no danger to human health.

It might be useful to point out that people have greater exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) while watching television, talking on their cell phones or cooking on an electric oven. EMF is not nuclear radiation. Many doctors prescribe MRI (magnetic resonance imag-

ing) for looking at the inner workings of the human body, and this machine exposes humans to very high EMF levels. This supposed maglev controversy is more about education than it is about health issues.

– Kevin Coates, executive director of North American Maglev Transport Institute (NAMTI)

Too many questions remain

Maglev projects have also met opposition in foreign countries like Germany and Japan, where they were eventually canceled. Many countries have the advanced technology to build maglevs, but they are in no hurry to put them to use. This, in a way, shows the technology is not yet mature enough for widespread application.

I heard that the shortest distance between the railways and residences in Germany is 300 meters, but it is only 20 meters here. Isn't there any internationally-set standard? Too many questions are unanswered.

– "Bubble," Beijing resident

Open-mindedness needed

The maglev trains in Shanghai have brought unparalleled convenience and benefits to locals. They are faster and less expensive than taking a cab.

New things always bring about debates, but we need to develop a more open attitude toward it. There will likely be problems, but these should not be the reason to stop it – just concentrate on finding solutions.

– Soft Heart, netizen on 163.com

Banks charge 'counting fee' to coin depositors

By Wang Yu

A depositor surnamed Cao went to a Beijing branch of the Agricultural Bank of China last week to deposit 300 yuan in 1-yuan coins. To her astonishment, the bank charged her 6 yuan as "counting fee."

According to a bank memo released in April, clients who deposit at least 200 coins will be charged 5 yuan, with 1 yuan added for each succeeding 100 coins. The Principal of Price Division of the National Development and Reform Commission says this policy is legal, as commercial banks are allowed to charge relevant fees determined by the market.

Other banks have also introduced a similar fee, including the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), China Construction Bank and Bank of China. They explained that the extra charge is the labor cost of counting huge amounts of coins.

Corporate clients like public transport companies have been extended discounts by the banks. Small-business owners, meanwhile, have chosen to swap their coins with convenience stores that are always hungry for coins.

Comment

Bad service

I think such a policy is like stealing money! It is banks' duty to count money – yet now they have transferred the cost to depositors, which makes no sense. People who live in big cities like Beijing are familiar with waiting in line for an hour just to make a deposit. Banks should think more about how to upgrade their services than to take more money from us.

– Zhang Xudong, office clerk

Way to recover bank losses

Similar things are happening everywhere. Just because something is legal does not mean it is right; banks often use terms like "market economy" and "international practice" as excuses.

Most commercial banks in the country are profitable because they are monopolies and protected by the government, but they are failures in the financial-product market. To make up for their losses, they impose extra fees. Individual clients are in a helpless position and have no choice but to accept such policies.

– Li Kejie, news critic

Favorable to other depositors

The fee may seem unreasonable to the person depositing coins, but it's good for other clients waiting in line. Once, I saw an elderly woman who wanted to deposit a thick wad of 1-yuan banknotes; the bank asked another employee to help the teller count the money so we didn't have to wait too long. The extra charge is the cost of that other employee setting aside her regular work just to count the banknotes. From the opposite perspective, it is a fair deal.

– Twiggy Song, fashion editor

Bad for business

I think this is not a smart policy, especially with how it affects individual clients. Charging extra for this sounds ridiculous to depositors. You must never let your clients think you are greedy, or you will lose them. It also hurts the bank's image.

– Chris Stephenson, student from the US

Work-life balance, top concern for female executives

Women's summit

Erin Nelson, 40, a native of the US, was among 1,300 government and business leaders from more than 80 countries who participated in the three-day summit that ended last weekend.

For her, it was a rare chance to find out from successful women how they balanced life and work, how they built their business or political network and what challenges they encountered along the way. Among the women Nelson met were Maud Olofsson, deputy prime minister of Sweden; Henryka Bochniarz, president of Boeing Central and Eastern Europe; and Yang Lan, co-founder and president of SunTelevision Cybernetworks China.

"I think it's extremely important to build a very strong network of women leaders to enable younger women leaders to see the right path and how to move toward it," Nelson said. "I think women leaders will become increasingly important in more places around the world."

She said she was very impressed to see so many Chinese women in leadership positions. "I think it is quite exceptional. You don't find that in many other countries," she said, adding that she has visited many countries in Europe, the Middle East and Asia where there were few opportunities for a woman to rise in politics or in business.

Maintaining work-life balance

While Nelson attended the summit to draw inspiration from other successful women, many of the attendees also hoped to learn from her life story.

After her two sons were born – now 6 and 9 years old – Nelson struggled with whether it was better for her to become a full-time wife and mother or to continue a career that was going well and that she valued highly. She decided to go back to work, determined to perform well both at home and in the office.

"It was not as easy as I had hoped. There was a time when I thought I was not doing either role particularly well," Nelson said, adding that she felt guilty being away from her sons for long periods of time. Her job required her to go on business trips regularly; all her travel put together sometimes amounted to nine months of the year.

But when she was at home, Nelson said she put everything into being a mother and a wife. She said she tried not to miss important moments for the boys, such as their first day of school each year, and that she took them traveling around the US and overseas when she got time off work.

"While sometimes they get a bit irritated when I miss dinner, most of the time they under-



Erin Nelson with her family

Photo provided by Erin Nelson



Female executives from different countries attended the summit to learn from other successful women.

CFP Photo

stand and give me a lot of positive reinforcement," she said. "They tell me that I'm a good mother," Nelson said with a laugh.

She said maintaining balance in life would not have been possible without her husband's help and support.

Learning to be an executive

Nelson, like many female executives, is aggressive, passionate about her job and pos-

sesses strong leadership skills. But a leader's path is not always smooth, and Nelson has had her share of challenging times.

She particularly remembers an experience in 2003, her fourth year at Dell. She was leading a sales team, and as a young, energetic leader, she pushed her members to perform well, expecting every person to be as driven as she was. Things turned out horribly: the team per-

By Han Manman

Life for female senior executives is not as easy as it is for their male counterparts. These women must perform at the top of their game while taking care of children, running a household and dealing with demanding clients and business partners. They need to balance many areas of life.

For these executives, finding successful female role models is very important – someone who can share the secret of how to keep everything in balance and give career advice.

To know more successful women leaders and learn from them, Erin Nelson, senior vice president and chief marketing officer for Dell Inc, came to Beijing last week to participate in the Global Women's Summit 2010, a meeting to discuss women in power and how they are shaping our world.

formed poorly, misunderstandings ensued among members and some of her people doubted her leadership abilities.

"I didn't do very well the first six months," Nelson said. "I came in and just assumed that people were as motivated as I was, and I didn't take the time to know them personally."

She realized she needed to fix her interpersonal relationship with her members, and proceeded to get to know every person on the team. "I had to prove my credibility with the team. I had to show them I could be a good salesperson," Nelson said, "so I started spending time in the field with customers, closing deals and closing business, so that I could gain respect," she said.

"The experience taught me how to lead and motivate people," she said. The experience would also help her with bigger managerial roles in the future.

Advice for young women

Since there are more and more opportunities for young women to get ahead in the corpo-

rate world, Nelson tells them not to be afraid to "take chances."

"I've been provided a lot of opportunities, and sometimes I didn't think I was ready for them ... but when chances come, take them and make the most of them," she said.

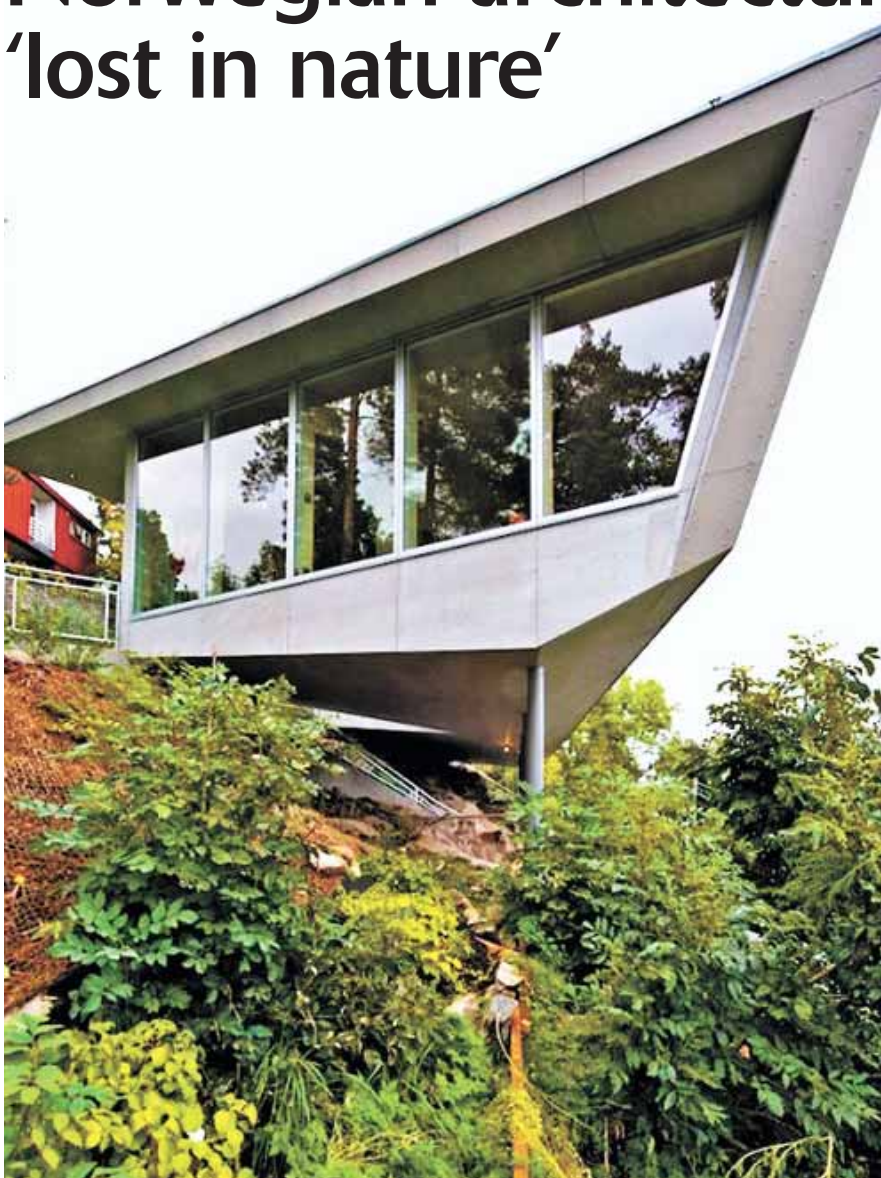
"Opening yourself to new things is also very important," she said. "In everything you do, ask yourself what you can learn and how this can help you become better."

Nelson's third suggestion is to find a great mentor – just like she did.

"Find people you can talk to about your career, give you advice and help you plan your career. It really helps to plan your career path," she said. "I have six mentors that I reach out to regularly and they are like my own board of directors. They help me think about my opportunities and directions."

Nelson also challenges women to make a difference in everything they do and to make an impact that can look back on and be proud of. "Whatever your role is, be the best you can be and make things happen," she said.

Norwegian architectural designs 'lost in nature'



The Edge House is located beside a cliff and movies.

Photo by Einar Jarmund



Einar Jarmund explains his nature-friendly designs to a student. Photo by Chu Meng

By Chu Meng

The Norwegian Embassy has unveiled "Lost in Nature," an exhibition of eco-friendly architectural designs, at Tsinghua University's School of Architecture in honor of the university's 90th anniversary. The award-winning designs were created by Norwegian architect Einar Jarmund and his firm.

The Oslo-based firm prides itself on its 'green' designs, which emphasize natural settings, environmentally-friendly materials and harmony between people and their environment – without sacrificing aesthetics and functionality.

One of the most eye-catching works on display was The Edge House, a building with jagged lines and which looked as if it was about to fall off the cliff. The house, located in Kolbotn, a suburb south of Oslo, may look unsteady but it is very stable, Jarmund told students who attended the exhibition launch Monday.

"The house belongs to a young couple," the 48-year-old architect said. "They came to me one day, saying they wanted a cool design but that they had a limited budget. They described their ideal place as something that 'looks like you could shoot a James Bond movie in it.' We accepted the project since it was a challenge we've never had. We think the architects captured the essence of the homeowners' wish."

Jarmund said that young Norwegian architects differ from previous generations in the environments they choose to build, rather than their designs. He, for instance, considers it vital to preserve old buildings and their original materials, and instead chooses to expand them in creative ways.

Zhu Wenyi, director of Tsinghua's School of Architecture, visited Jarmund's firm last year and remembers being impressed by its large building, a former factory building located along the city's Akerselva River. The structure also houses the Oslo School of Architecture and Design. "You could clearly see how the old and new elements were combined for maximum aesthetic impact," Zhu said.

He said teachers look out from their classrooms onto old concrete columns and beams dating back to the 1960s, and that in the toilets, old masonry and concrete walls stand plastics and synthetic materials.

"It had a roughness and a strength that made it a work of modern architecture and turned the office into a model internationally," Zhu said. "It is what Chinese architects should learn from. As real-estate construction booms in our cities, the only thing we know is to demolish old buildings, and in the process destroy reminders from the past. This is a very sad thing for residents of any city," he said.

The exhibition, which runs through June 5, also introduces architecture in various Norwegian sites: tourist attractions, residential communities, seaside resorts – including one on the arctic Svalbard archipelago. "What we tried to do was pay homage to the environment and integrate the buildings into their surroundings," Jarmund said.

When a Tsinghua student asked him how he would design a house at the foot of the Great Wall for a Chinese client, Jarmund was taken by surprise. "Wow, it will take me at least two months just to become familiar with the environment, the cultural history of the area and the personality of the family," he said.

"Lost in Nature" is on a global exhibition tour that began in France in 2007 and has been viewed in Malaysia, South Korea, the US, Canada and South American countries. After China, it is making a stop in Australia and New Zealand.

Spanish bagpipe band performs at the Great Wall

By Chu Meng

Visitors to the Great Wall at Mutianyu witnessed a rare moment Sunday morning when the sound of bagpipes filled the air with the Spanish folk song "Dawn of Ourense."

The musicians were 50 members of the Royal Band of Bagpipes of Spain, on a week-long tour of the country to promote the Spanish region of Galicia. They gave their first China performance at the World Expo in Shanghai, which opened earlier this month.

The bagpipe players, ages 14 to 20 and dressed in 18th-century traditional costumes, are all former students of the Provincial School of Bagpipes located in the northern Spanish city of Ourense. The school, founded half a century ago, has more than 15,000 students.

The band represents the highest quality of bagpipe playing and has

been awarded "best bagpipe band in Europe" at annual bagpipe contests in the last five years, said Xose Lois Foxo, founder and chief artistic director of the band. The band, which counted Pope John Paul II among its supporters, has also made it its mission to spread Spanish culture to the rest of the world, Foxo said.

The relatively young age of its members – most European bagpipe band performers are at least middle aged – also enables it to "exude youthful charm that can unite peoples from all over the world around its message," Foxo said.

Spanish Ambassador Carlos Blasco Villa said the band, which was founded the same year as the school, is a rarity in the modern world. "Galicians are quite conservative and are not very eager to explore the world, but this has also allowed them to preserve their



The Royal Band of Bagpipes of Spain performs at the Great Wall in Mutianyu. Photo by Chu Meng

cultural heritage, passing on ancient traditions to the present generation," like bagpipe playing.

The band's three-hour performance at the Wall included traditional Galician music, as well as popular folk songs from overseas. It closed the show with an adaption of the Chinese folk song "Jasmine Flower."

Folk customs in BLCU foreign students' curriculum

By Chu Meng

Applying Peking Opera makeup and doing water calligraphy on the ground are now academic options for foreign students at Beijing Language and Culture University.

Foreign students need to attend at least two classes on Beijing folk customs each semester as part of their exposure to local culture and tradition, according to an agreement signed Monday by officials from the university and the Xuanwu District Tourism Bureau.

"We invite foreigners to experience, learn and understand Beijing's culture," said Yin Wenzheng, vice director of the bureau. "Students from Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) are some of those who have been attracted to the richness of Chinese culture. Beijing folk customs are a very important part of this, which they can more deeply understand by attending cultural activities held by local artists."

Yin said the capital's millennia-old customs and traditions are what comprise "Beijing flavor."

Stephan Anissimov, a Russian student, attended BLCU's first folk class on waist-drum dancing held at Grandview Garden Park on Monday. The dance is a type of morning exercise often seen performed in parks around town.

"I loved it!" Stephan said. "I've seen it on TV and at Spring Festi-



BLCU students learn how to apply Peking Opera makeup

Photo provided by BLCU

val temple fairs, but when I did the dance, I found that it actually has a lot in common with traditional Russian square dance. If I did not try it, I would never have known."

She said she was glad she gave the experiential culture class a go despite her initial hesitation. "I did not really take to this approach at first since what I wanted was to be able to speak Chinese better. Now I've had a chance to make

friends with the locals and experience things I've only read about."

Zhang Yuanqing, an officer at BLCU's Overseas Student Center and head of the cultural program, said the classes were an ideal supplement to classroom instruction. "We often found difficulty in teaching Chinese culture as culture is really something a person needs to experience, not something to just read or watch in the

classroom," she said.

Zhang echoed Yin's view that old Beijing customs are a vital part of Chinese culture, and should be required learning for any student interested in China's culture and traditions. "There is so much for our young students to experience," she said, citing traditional festivals and folk rituals when visiting the home of friends and business associates.

Event

Pet Carnival

The pet carnival "Share My Life with My Pet" will be held June 5 and 6 at Pinnacle Plaza's Central Villa Zone. Visitors will have an opportunity to win big prizes for their pets and to receive free pet products. Admission is free to those who present their pet's Certificate of Inspection.

Where: Pinnacle Plaza (across the New International Exhibition Center), Tianzhu Industrial Area, Shunyi District

When: June 5-6, 10 am - 5 pm

Tel: 8046 2500

G&D Music Festival

The G&D Music Festival is back this year at Goose and Duck Ranch & Farm Countryside Resort with support from the government of Huairou District. The festival will offer a variety of entertainment: music, magic shows, competitions, DJs, cheerleaders and swimsuit models, alongside great food and fun for family and friends.

Where: The Goose and Duck Ranch & Farm Countryside Resort, Beizhai, Huairou District

When: June 13-17, 10 am - 5 pm

Cost: 100 yuan and up
Tel: 5928 3045, 5928 3046 and 1331188413 (Chinese service), 13901087774 (English service)

(By Sun Feng)

NGO discusses preservation of old sites

By Liang Meilan

Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center (CHP)'s roundtable discussion on preserving cultural heritage sites took place last Saturday, almost two months after the original event was cancelled. The discussion, themed "Vanishing Beijing: Why Preservation Matters," aimed to gather suggestions concerning heritage preservation from experts and the audience.

Four guests spoke about why so many cultural heritages sites across the country are being destroyed, why it is necessary to preserve Beijing's *hutong* and how to do so, and models of cultural heritage protection overseas that China can emulate. The speakers were Ted Pfalker, Beijing correspondent for *The Economist*; Li Luke, an associate professor at Tsinghua University's School of Architecture; Deng Jiaqi, a retired professor from Horti Cultural University in Dalian; and Jim Stent, director of CHP.

Li said the preservation of Beijing's courtyard homes hinged on easing their population density. "Courtyard homes were originally designed for communities with a small population, which is no longer the case," she said. "Take No. 14 Mao'r Hutong for example; there are 76 families and about 250 people



The roundtable discussion at Capital M restaurant last Saturday

Photo provided by CHP

living in an area of 3,000 square meters - previously occupied by only 30 people. The most pressing need is to reduce the population in these areas."

Deng disagreed with Li's view that courtyards should be maintained as residences. "Hutong are for everyone, so the government should help transform them into cultural sites where visitors can enjoy rich Chinese heritage," he said.

Li conceded that uninhabited courtyard homes can be transformed into public facilities such as schools and temples to eliminate the need to destroy them to give way to new buildings.

"Their underground spaces can also be redesigned to serve the needs of modern living," she said. "We can build infrastructure like water pipes, heating pipes, electric wires and Internet cables."

She discussed two foreign models of cultural preservation that China can learn from. "One that is frequently used overseas involves the government helping relocated residents find new ways of making a living, like opening a private museum where they can work, thus homeowners are involved in preservation efforts," she said. "Another one involves the government investing in repairing old homes and

constructing new apartments for residents."

Audience members - mostly from NGOs, architectural firms and universities - were very concerned about the planned redevelopment of the Drum and Bell Tower area; the plan includes adding malls, public squares and a museum, which people fear would lead to the destruction of quaint shops and bars and old courtyard homes.

Stent said he sees this as a "fantastic opportunity" for city planners to learn from the lessons of similar projects here and abroad. He said he also regards this as a way to provide better

livelihood for locals while keeping conservation a priority.

"City planners should take this opportunity to work with residents, experts and organizations like CHP to carry out responsible redevelopment," Stent said.

CHP said it will release a white paper based on the roundtable discussion, putting forward to the government and media the organization's "vision of Old Beijing." It said it "will emphasize a positive outlook for Beijing that meets the requirements for economic development, upgraded standards of housing and environment and the preservation of historical value and authenticity."

Best doesn't mean biggest

The secrets of French enterprise success



Photo provided by
Guillaume Bernard

A secret weapon

The four-story office of L. Bernard in the city's Economic-Technological Development Area is comparatively inconspicuous when viewed beside its neighbors. But as a foreign-owned company its growth has been amazing.

Guillaume Bernard, 30, general manager of the company, expanded the family business to China in 2004.

Since then it has thrived. Almost all the nuclear power plants in China use electric actuators designed by L. Bernard, and the company's devices are used in many other industries.

"What has kept us forging ahead is industrial excellence. Being a small company does not mean we shouldn't aim to compete with the likes of Schneider, ABB and General Electric," Bernard said.

"We make the same products in China that we do in France," he said, comparing Bernard's offerings to companies that allegedly sacrifice quality to compete with local market prices.

By 2004, many thought it was too late to enter the China market. Though L. Bernard's products were competitive, the *guanxi*-driven business environment presented many hurdles.

"We knew relationships mattered in business here. But we didn't realize then that the quality of those relationships mattered just as much," Bernard said.

Hiring experienced Chinese workers may have made all the difference in L. Bernard's success. Song Jianying, the company's quality manager, praised the company culture as a key factor. "L. Bernard gives every worker a stage to fully display his abilities. The boss tries to pool the wisdom of all the people to better the company," he said.

While L. Bernard's techniques and equipment are imported from France, its management style is not: 78 of its employees are Chinese — only two are French.

Challenges and solutions

When Bernard decided to leave Paris and move the family business to an alien market, he knew he was in for a challenge. He prepared for it with research. "I read reviews of the Chi-

By Liang Meilan

Ambitious small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) enter China each year seeking fortune: most fail.

From the moment they decide to enter they face seemingly insurmountable bureaucratic challenges. Success can hinge on the advice of one more experienced with the local system.

For French companies, the search for a mentor has become one step easier. The French Chamber of Commerce is presenting a CCI International Award to the best French SMEs in China in hopes they can be models.

Nominations are still open for this year's award, which will be presented this November in Guangzhou.

L. Bernard, a French company with 80 workers that entered China in 2004, was last year's winner. Its owner has many bitter and many sweet stories to share about its success.



CCI International Award party.

Photo provided by Guillaume Bernard



The French Chamber of Commerce visits L. Bernard factory.

Photo provided by Guillaume Bernard

nese market in English. I learned by my own experience. I traveled and visited customers with different backgrounds," he said.

Those experiences were invaluable

when it came time to sell. "Selling is very different here. In Europe, you first prove that your product is better and more reliable, sign contracts and only then begin to build a relationship with the client. In China, it's the opposite."

Those experiences were invaluable when it came time to sell. "Selling is very different here. In Europe, you first prove that your product is better and more reliable, sign contracts and only then begin to build a relationship with the client. In China, it's the opposite."

able when it came time to sell.

"Selling is very different here. In Europe, you first prove that your product is better and more reliable, sign contracts and only then begin to build a relationship with the client. In China, it's the opposite. You build a relationship before you start to talk about business. For the small company it requires a lot of

patience and is very difficult because you must cover your own costs to fill orders," he said. In China, most banking is off-limits to foreign companies.

"The financial system is poorly organized and does not allow a company to borrow money to expand. That is one obstacle we can't do anything about, even if we understand it. What we can do is work hard to build up trust and one day get an easy loan," he said.

L. Bernard's reputation has made it the target of copycats. "They made the competition hard

and sometimes unfair. Now you can find numerous 'Bernards' selling similar products online. They are all fake, but they occupy a part of the market and compete against us," he said.

His company is currently engaged in a legal battle against another "Bernard" in Tianjin.

"This particular group has cost us sales and credibility, and its owner does not even pay his own people well," he said.

In China, it is a serious problem that people with bad intentions tend to have more power, Bernard said. "What we can do is participate in advising the authorities of this problem so they will be quick to work on a solution," he said.

Culture shock and enrichment

"China is a mirror that is quick to show your weak points," he said. At L. Bernard, culture shock has been a phenomenon mostly limited to management.

In France, when the company made parts that did not fit the buyer's need, the buyer would usually make it work but sent the company a copy of what the part needed to fit so it could perfect future shipments.

"In China, if you do the same thing, the supplier won't tell you that you made a mistake," he said.

Quality Manager Song noted an example. The law says that

when protection measures for spray painters are inadequate, the workers are allowed to stop working and demand compensation.

"None of the workers ever take advantage of this. In China, workers are usually in a relatively weak position compared to their leaders. They won't quit even if the job is damaging their health," Song said.

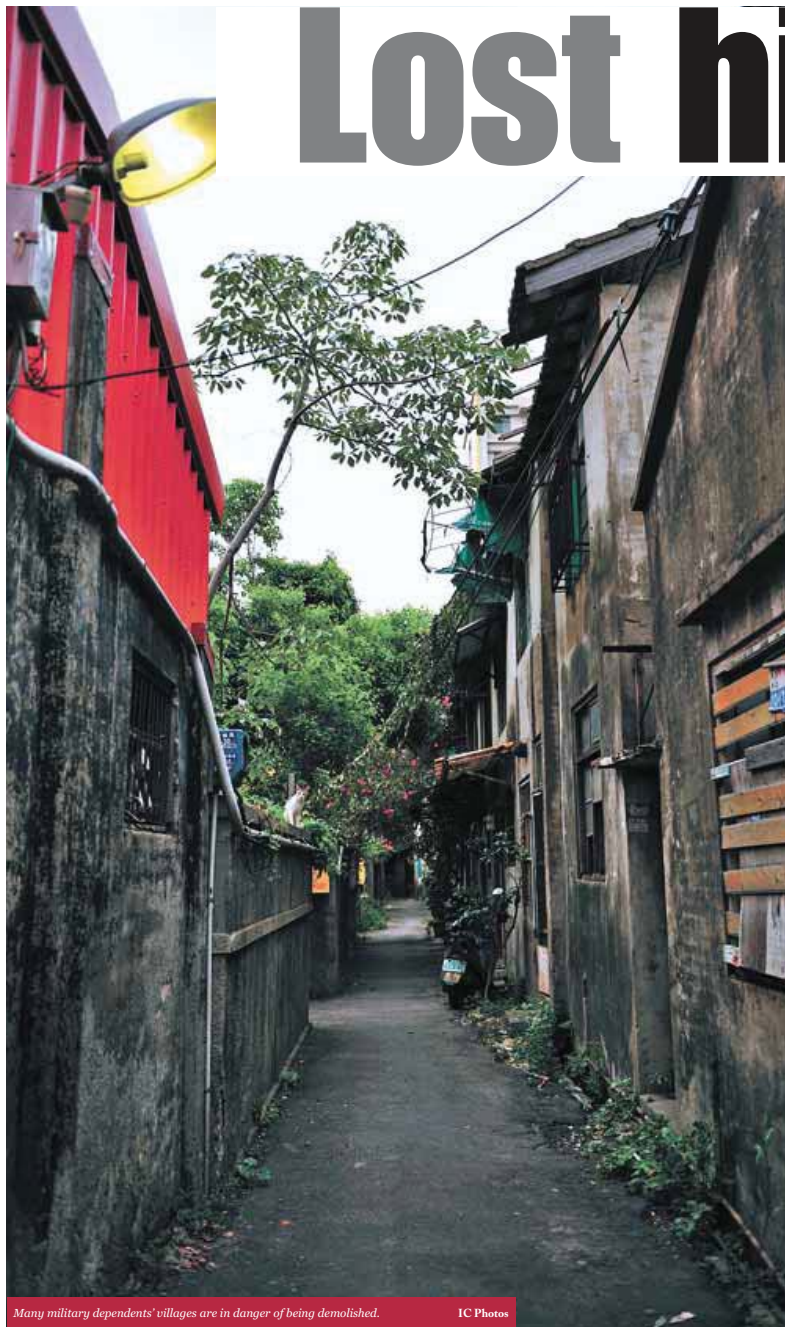
But Bernard views those differences in a positive light. The combination of cultures offers a chance for mutual enrichment, he said.

The French Chamber of Commerce in China lauded L. Bernard for its ability to adapt and cooperate with its Chinese workforce.

"It (L. Bernard) provides its Chinese employees with at least the same level of social benefits as their colleagues in France. It has also tailored a new welfare system package for China to boost employees loyalty," it said.

"We provide our employees with health insurance and pay up to 90 percent of the cost of their health care. We also have supplementary insurances for our employees, which is something rarely seen in China," Bernard said.

Parents of employees who chose to stay with the company for five years are given the same amount of insurance as their sons and daughters. "It is a way to congratulate and reward the people who stay with us," he said.



Many military dependents' villages are in danger of being demolished.

IC Photos

Lost history

Nine me

By He Jianwei

"People are trapped in history."

Baldwin's quote is best illustrated in the movie *The Captive*. Most were shipped to Taiwan with new families, but others remained in the mainland.

When people age and die, the stories of war as the movie *The Captive* shows. For many it was their first step into a lost era of history.

Waves clash against the rocks. The tides ebb. An old voice recalls the stories of war as the movie fades to show an old man with deep furrows and gray hair.

These first scenes of *The Captive* were directed by Chen Hsin-Yi, a first-time filmmaker and daughter of the old man. Her film opened the ongoing "Memories of Taiwan - Mainlander of Taiwan Documentary Festival" being held at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) in the 798 Art District and Lady Book Saloon in New World Shopping Mall.

In 1949, her father Chen Shuyuan, a former People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldier from Jiangsu Province, was taken captive by the Kuomintang as its army fled the mainland. The 80-year-old Chen has lived in Taiwan for the past six decades, keeping his Communist Party member status a secret.

In front of his daughter's camera he revealed his unknown history in an 86-minute documentary.

Chen Hsin-Yi and her father have a bad relationship because her father is ill tempered.

"I remember him getting drunk and shouting at everyone in the family. He even beat up my mother. I didn't understand why he behaved like this and we alienated ourselves from him," she said.

When the director, a political reporter for a Taiwan news agency, joined the film project, she decided to reunite with her father to learn his story.

"He is the only one in his generation I knew. I hoped the filming would give us a chance to reconcile," she said.

Her father's story was one of home sickness and fear.

At 13, terrified of being conscripted as a soldier by the Wang Jingwei Regime, a puppet state of the Japanese empire, he joined the main communist forces in the New Fourth Army.

He was taken captive six years later at the Battle of Guningtou in Kinmen when the PLA landed on the shore.

"The political situation was a mess for decades in Taiwan and relations between Taiwan and the mainland were sensitive. My father worried that revealing his identity would harm my family, so he kept silent," the director said.

Through making the film, Chen Hsin-Yi said she understood her father's pain and how his life changed. The cruel scenes of war haunt her father's mind. "Even years later he remembers the soldiers who died beside him. I believe the war trauma-

Dry

Memories from Taiwan

ory and history is trapped in them," American writer James Baldwin said. strated by the millions who moved to Taiwan from the mainland 61 years ago. after Chiang Kai-shek's defeat on the mainland. Some settled down to start a ed alone forever.

their stories are buried with their bodies if no one writes them down. cond generation of those settlers made documentaries about their families. ps into their fathers' history. For mainland viewers, their stories represent a



Chen Hsin-Yi, director of *The Captive*



Chen Shuyan, a former PLA

Many people have documented the lives of the more famous mainlanders, such as the children and grandchildren of Chiang Kai-shek, but few know the stories of ordinary men and women.

In the past decades, first generation mainlanders have struggled with their identities. But few in the younger generation have a clear understanding of their origins.

tized him permanently," she said.

After filming, her father asked her to delete the part about his PLA background.

"I suspect my father was held captive by the Kuomintang in his earlier life and by my camera in his later years," she said.

There are 7,000 captives like Chen Hsin-Yi's father who live in Taiwan.

She said love and hate are the best words to describe her relationship with her father. "I've learned more about my father, but that's not enough to have a happy life. We still fight, but I think now we are both more understanding," she said.

Unlike the conflicts in Chen Hsin-Yi's family, Chen Yiyun depicts a happy and warm family in *Track of Dream*, her 61-minute documentary.

Her father left his hometown Yancheng, Jiangsu Province, to move to Taiwan and marry a Hakka wife 28 years his junior.

"Their marriage was typical of that time – a newcomer married a resident. They lived a simple life but supported each other," she said.

Seven other films by second-generation "mainlanders" are also part of the festival. Most are by first-time directors. In 2008, the Taiwan Mainlander Organization began its Project Films About the Old Soldiers in Military Dependents' Villages to preserve the stories of first-generation settlers from the mainland.

Many people have documented the lives of the more famous mainlanders, such as the children and grandchildren of Chiang Kai-shek, but few know the stories of ordinary men and women.

There are four main groups in Taiwan's population: mainlanders, southern Fujian migrants, Hakkas and ethnic minorities. Mainlanders make up 13 percent.

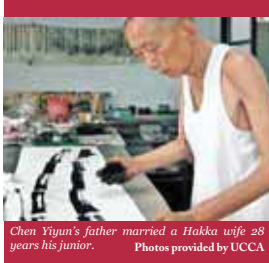
In the past decades, first-generation mainlanders have struggled with their identities. But few in the younger generation have a clear understanding of their origins.

"The first generation is getting old, which means this group is dying and their culture is dying," Chou Siu-nuo, secretary of the Taiwan Mainlander Organization, said. Chou herself is a third-generation mainlanders with roots in Zhejiang Province.

The festival marks the first presentation of mainlanders' stories in Beijing. Screening of festival films will continue through June 12: all films are run with both Chinese and English subtitles.



Left and above: The military dependents' villages were the home for first-generation mainlanders and a playground for their children.



Chen Yiyun's father married a Hakka wife 28 years his junior. Photos provided by UCCA

Programs

Image of Life

The story of a grandpa attempting to preserve military dependents' villages in photographs. The villages – now mostly demolished – were built all over the island to house Kuomintang soldiers and their families.

When: May 29, 7 pm

Shan Hai Jing

Yusming Xincun is one of the last hold-outs in a military dependents' village when mainlanders, Hakka and ethnic minorities move in.

When: May 30, 7 pm

60 Years at a Tiny Space

The story of three old single men living in a dorm for retired, single air force veterans.

When: June 5, 7 pm

Continuing

Residents in a military dependents' village attempt to continue their old life with new neighbors after being forced to relocate.

When: June 6, 7 pm

Watching For

The reunion of a couple 50 years after the husband fled the mainland leaving behind his wife in their hometown.

When: June 12, 7 pm

Where: Lady Book Saloon, 2/F of New World Shopping Mall, 7 Dong Damochang Jie, Chongwen District
Admission: Free
Tel: 6708 7470

German prizewinner connects creation, life

By He Jianwei

Life is a story, a good writer just observes and records it.

Two contemporary German authors best represent this school of thought: Herta Muller and Kathrin Schmidt.

Muller, who grew up in a German-speaking village in Romania, talks of her early life under the country's dictatorial regime in her books. Schmidt, who lost the ability to speak and write after a stroke, fought to regain her skills by finishing a novel.

While Muller was praised last year by Nobel judges for depicting the "landscape of the dispossessed," the German Book Prize went to Schmidt last October.

"The literature award is not a competition, so I don't think I beat Muller at the German Book Prize," Schmidt said last Sunday at One Way Street Bookstore.

Always eloquent but only occasionally clear, Schmidt talked about her creation and read several paragraphs of her award-winning novel *You're Not Going to Die*.

Regaining a lost world

Schmidt spent 2002 in a coma after suffering a brain aneurysm: it took her three years to relearn how to speak.

Drawing on her own experiences, the novel describes a woman's experience after waking from a coma.

Helene Wesendahl, the character in the book, has no idea what has happened: she wakes in hospital to discover she has no control over her body, has lost all her memories and her ability to speak.

Through her eyes readers see the hospital ward, other patients, nurses and Wesendahl's own body, which has taken on a life of its own.

Readers follow her through her laborious rehabilitation, the reactions of her family, her husband's selfless commitment and the fragmentary return of her memory.

The novel is the story of a world regained. In Helene's rehabilitation, syllable by syllable and sentence by sentence, she seeks to find her lost speech and memory.

"It is a self-observation. I'm interested in the loss and recovery of speech and memory. I intend to tell people who have such an experience that it is possible to rediscover speech and memory," Schmidt said.

"Maybe some people will think they are slow or that they have a bad lisp, but there is always hope."

"With great linguistic force and in a tone that is sometimes laconic, sometimes derisive, sometimes uncanny, the novel depicts the heroine's inner world, thus enabling the history of her family, her marriage and an unanticipated, incredible love to emerge from within," the jury explained of its choice of Schmidt's novel.

The world Schmidt pieces together in her book includes the declining German Democratic Republic (GDR), the years of the 1980s between Germany's reunification and the start of the new millennium. "We had no idea that the reunification would happen so fast and we thought it was just a reform in the GDR," she said.

The history of reunification is just an episode in the book. And Schmidt denied that Wesendahl's suffering indicates the end of GDR and her rehabili-



Photo provided by Goethe-Institute China

tation means the reunification between the country's East and West.

Social scientist's view

Although critics said that rediscovering memory indicates a remembering of history, Schmidt said her only interest was in human relationships.

Born in Gotha, East Germany, in 1958, Schmidt worked as psychologist, editor and social scientist before she began to write poems and novels. As a teen she aspired to write, but was unable to make a living of it.

"For a long time I believed I was supposed to write. I didn't have any special creative ability, but I learned about life through writing," she said.

Her first novel *The Gunnar Lennsfen Expedition*, published in 1998, focuses on a women's position in family. The character is a grandmother born in 1899 and experiencing World War I and World War II.

Through the grandmother's memory Schmidt examines history. But "World War I and II are not as important as the problem of living in her family," Schmidt said.

In another novella, *Learnin' the Blues*, the name from a popular song in the 1950s, Schmidt addresses a middle-aged woman's problem in the family and how she must be a daughter, a wife and a mother at once. She has a night stand with a young man but returns to her family.

"The goal of literature is not to make

a 'model' character. The woman is looking to escape her life: she is forced to take care of her mother, her husband and her children. She has no individual space and time, so meeting a young man is an escape. In the end, she must go back to normal life," Schmidt said.

Prize supports life

The German Book Prize was worth €25,000 (208,000 yuan) and is intended to help writers remain economically independent. "It provides a chance to a writer who cannot earn a living by writing," she said. "It is great encouragement for writers working on their next book."

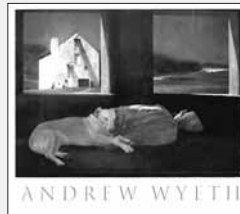
When she was young, she wrote poetry and had no intention to write novels. But she knew that it was impossible to support herself with poetry. "When I had my children, I had to write novels. If I lived alone then I would still just be writing poetry," she said.

Schmidt has been the recipient of numerous prizes including the Leone and Lena Prize in 1993. Her first novel received the Helmita von Doderer advancement prize and an award from the state of Carinthia as part of the Ingeborg Bachmann Competition in 1998.

Since winning the German Book Prize last year, Schmidt has found more readers both in Germany and abroad. *Yilin Magazine* has translated some of Schmidt's novels in several issues this year.

Trends Lounge book listing

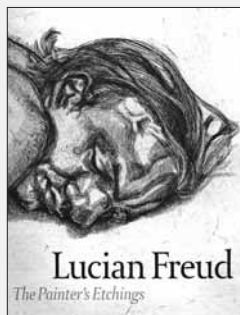
Located at The Place, Trends Lounge is a bookstore and cafe with a wide selection of international art, design and architecture books.



Andrew Wyeth: Autobiography

By Thomas Hoving and Andrew Wyeth, 168pp, Bulfinch, 220 yuan

Legendary American realist painter Andrew Wyeth's autobiography is not a prose narrative but an exhibition of his work, from an oil painting of a man plowing his fields painted when the artist was 16 to a 1993 watercolor of a whale's rib on a Maine island shore.



Lucian Freud: The Painter's Etchings

By Starr Figura and Lucian Freud, 144pp, 330 yuan

One of the foremost figurative artists working today, Lucian Freud has redefined portraiture and the nude through his unblinking scrutiny of the human form. Although he is best known as a painter, etching is integral to his practice. This volume accompanies a major Museum of Modern Art exhibition that will present 75 of Freud's etchings from experiments in the 1940s to complex compositions he created after rediscovering the medium in the early 1980s.



Winslow Homer Watercolors

By Nicolai Cikovsky, 120pp, Universe, 230 yuan

From the beautiful mountains and streams of Canada and the Adirondacks to the sandy beaches of New England, and from the picturesque coasts of English villages to the sunny shores of the Bahamas, Winslow Homer captured in his paintings the true magnificence of nature. For more than 30 years between 1873 and 1905, Winslow Homer turned to watercolors during his vacations to capture the spirit of each place he visited with spontaneity and intensity.

(By He Jianwei)

Joy found beyond the burgers

Eating for toys

Even at 26, Yang Bo still orders a Happy Meal every time he visits McDonald's.

"I don't really like the food that much," Yang says. "But as soon as they issue a new series of toys, that's when I start eating burgers."

Yang works as a graphic designer; he displays his McDonald's collections on a bookshelf at home.

He is still a low-level collector, unlike the rabid fans who hunt every McDonald's branch and the Internet to complete their toy sets.

"People my age didn't have money to go to McDonald's for lunch before high school. They toys never interested me too much until I found pictures of a huge toy collection page on the Internet in 2001," Yang says.

Even without careful hunting, Yang has collected hundreds of toys from 200 series. He doesn't search online because he prefers the toy from each meal to be a surprise.

But Zhang Yueyi is not satisfied to leave her collection to chance. She started collecting McDonald's toys in primary school and is one of the city's biggest collectors.

with thousands of toys – more than she can hope to display at home.

Yang, 22, has completed almost every series the restaurant has issued in China.

"Every fast-food brand – even convenience stores like 7/11 – issues original toys, but collectors are most enthusiastic for McDonald's products. I think it's because the brand has cooperated to make toys for so many movies and cartoons. You can always find recognizable characters stamped with an M on their back," Zhang says.

The adventure

Zhang got her first McDonald's toy at a night market in primary school. It was a vehicle from a 25th anniversary Happy Meal issued only in the US. The toy factories were in China, so single pieces had trickled into the local market.

"The toy I found that night is my favorite – not only because it is really nice but because it inspired me to

By Wang Yu

Most fast-food eaters know that their burgers and chips are nothing but high-calorie time savers. But those meals are a source of happiness for some toy collectors.

Fast-food restaurants have been around in China for 20 years. Most young adults can still remember their first visit to a fast-food restaurant when they begged their parents for whichever meal came with a toy.

Some adults are still chasing those moments of childhood.

Using the Internet, collectors are tracking down the lost pieces in toy series they started collecting in primary school.

start collecting," Zhang says.

However, the vendor she bought her toy from vanished. So far she has collected seven toys from the anniversary series.

Zhang opened a shop on Nanluogu Xiang earlier this month to sell off her extra toys. The shop is a small room filled with display cases, but it houses only a fraction of her collection.

"Early on I was crazy about going to McDonald's for Happy Meals even though I hated the food. Most branches only offer one or two toys per week, so you have to be quick to get them before other people can," she says.

"I used to buy dozens of Happy Meals trying to

make sure I didn't miss anything. It was crazy," Zhang says.

Collecting also meant beating the rush. In Beijing, Zhang visited every McDonald's inside Second Ring Road each time a new series came out. But toys sold out quickly, and soon she was scouring the suburbs for missing toys.

"During a trip to Shanghai in 2004 I found a series that was never issued in Beijing. I went to over 20 branches in one day to complete the series. It was the most exciting part of my trip," Zhang says.

Rise of the Internet

Lone toys are sometimes sold off at restaurants, but it takes more than money to track down limited and discontinued toys.

A series of assembled food models in Zhang's shop was passed to her by another collector. There is also a collection of characters from the Disney movie *Cars* which was one of the three series she bought from a McDonald's employee.

"I started to sell off my doubles when I was in middle school. Back then there was no Taobao: eBay was the only way to find a buyer. It often meant waiting a long time after your listed a toy. Eventually a buyer got what he or she was missing and I earned money to keep collecting," Zhang says.

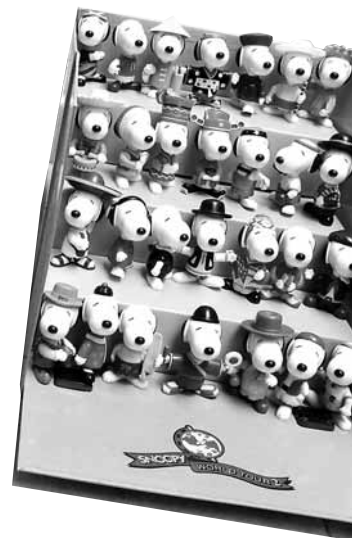
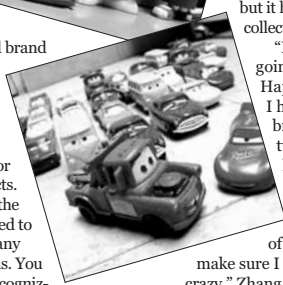
Even in China toys vary by region. Especially in Guangdong Province, where collectors have easier access to toys from US restaurants. Sometimes the same toys are better made and packaged for Happy Meals in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The US eBay's listings were even more helpful, as many toys for sale came with detailed dealer descriptions.

Zhang has a complete collection of Happy Meal toys for Disney's *101 Dalmatians* – one of the most difficult collections for US fans to complete.

"In 2005 Taobao was the place to go. Now I never shop there because the market has become chaotic. Some dealers are pumping the prices higher than the toys' real value," Zhang says.

Zhang has recently begun to sort and photograph her collection for the Internet. Her plans to build a forum for collectors have been delayed for years: the new shop is her first step.



Zhang Yueyi found the Snoopy World Tour2 collection at a McDonald's branch outside the city.

Photos by Song Nannan

Brief history of Happy Meal toys

The Happy Meal was introduced in 1979 and featured McDoodler stencils, McWrist Wallets, ID bracelets, spinning tops and McDonaldland character erasers.

St. Louis Regional Advertising Manager Dick Brams is credited with the Happy Meal concept and is known as the "Father of the Happy Meal."

As the Happy Meal evolved during the 1980s, a large collection of toys were released.

The first Star Trek movie spawned a Happy Meal with a themed box, multiple toys and a collector's comic strip. This led to more movies being tied into Happy Meals, making them more popular with children and adults.

The first Lego sets appeared in 1984. Children received a mini Lego set for a truck, ship, helicopter or airplane.

One of the most controversial toys released has been for the movie *Batman Returns*. The toys featured Catwoman, the Penguin and Batman, but few children acquired them as parents thought the movie was adult-oriented.

One of the most popular collections is the *101 Dalmatians* collection. It featured 101 different Dalmatian toys hidden by their packaging so collectors could not see what they were getting. A complete set is considered extremely valuable.



Fashion for outdoor socializing

By Annie Wei

Summer is the time for outdoor socials like barbecues, pool parties, picnics and – the biggest of them all – music festivals. *Beijing Today* scouted the INTRO electronic music festival at 798 Art District last Saturday for the season's trendiest clothing and accessories. Our discoveries are below.



See by Chloe, 3,900 yuan from Lane Crawford



Hammi Y, 3,100 yuan from Lane Crawford



Floral dress

This is a comfortable yet stylish outfit for a day at the park or at a friend's backyard party, and is among the season's most popular items at international chains like H&M and Zara. More affordable styles can be found on styleami.taobao.com, starting from 65 yuan.



Floral or pattern dresses were popular with girls at INTRO.

Photos by Sun Yi



Sunglasses

Nothing can make you look like a celebrity more than a pair of cool sunglasses. Quality is key for that put-together look, whether be it walking down the street or walking into a chic restaurant for lunch. Check out Chloe glasses (2,800 yuan) at Lane Crawford.



Leggings

Torn leggings and stockings with huge patterns have been popular since fall. Check out deniseduan.taobao.com for a variety of fancy socks and stockings (55 to 80 yuan).



Vera Wang (left), starting from 4,000 yuan and Shourouk, starting from 5,000 yuan

Accessories

Chunky, layered and delicate hand-crafted necklaces, which were in vogue last season, are still hot. Check out designer pieces by Vera Wang (at least 4,000 yuan) and Shourouk (5,000 to 7,000 yuan) at Lane Crawford. Inexpensive options (29 to 49 yuan) are available from online stores like shop36387224.taobao.com.



White top

A loose white T-shirt that exposes one shoulder or a white tank top made of quality cotton is a basic fashion element for summer, available from 50 to 100 yuan at H&M and Zara.



Handbags from taobao, 19 yuan

Photo by Wendy Xia

Handbags

The slogan of an old TV ad for Belle, a domestic shoe brand, said a woman needs different men to match her different shoes. Well, we also need more than a few handbags to match our different looks. Visit shop57199023.taobao.com/ for candy-colored summer bags at affordable prices.

H&M and Zara – Dongzhimen
Where: Raffles City, 1 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6405 5993

Lane Crawford
Where: 2 Jinchengfang Jie, Xicheng District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6622 0808

Coming out party for Portuguese food and wine

By Annie Wei

Portuguese cuisine is not the first thing that comes to mind at the mention of European food in Beijing. Hilton Beijing Wangfujing sought to tilt the scales by holding from May 17 to 27 its first Portuguese Food Festival, an event it hopes will become annual. The hotel also hosted a tasting of Portuguese wines, pleasant new discoveries to the fast-growing local wine community.

Portuguese cuisine at Vasco's

Besides its usual Macanese food – a marriage of Cantonese and Portuguese cuisines – the hotel's Vasco's restaurant has added Portuguese specialties to its menu following the food festival.

The creation of the new offerings were supervised by Fernando and Elisabete Real, husband-and-wife chefs and owners of Tromba Rija, one of the best places for traditional Portuguese food and wine in Lisbon. Fernando spoke to *Beijing Today* about the characteristics of authentic Portuguese cuisine and why his people consider wine "more important even than food."

Traditional Portuguese cuisine is characterized by rich, full-flavored dishes, and is closely related to Mediterranean cuisine, Fernando said. The influence of Portugal's former colonies like India, Macau and Brazil is evident in its food, especially in the liberal use of spices like black pepper, cinnamon, vanilla, saffron and piri piri, or African bird's eye chili, he said.

Among fish, cod is the most popular, Fernando said, adding that the Portuguese have a hundred ways of cooking cod. His home-style cod potato is made by baking the meat and potato with olive oil, then adding spinach, black vinegar and more olive oil. Vasco's offers the following variants: cod gratin with potato onion and garlic (68, 98 and 128 yuan for different sizes) and double-cooked and deep-fried Bacalhau (48, 68 and 88 yuan).

The restaurant now also serves Portuguese cheese and sausages. We recommend the most traditional: roasted homemade Portuguese sausage (two sizes at 48 and 78 yuan).

Fernando said that most Portuguese diners consider wine more important than food. "Food is for the body and mind, while wine is for the soul," he said.

The chef said that because the flavor of traditional Portuguese dishes can be very diverse, it's difficult to pair them with local wine. His solution: he creates new recipes to match Portuguese wines.

Vasco's offers a wide selection of wines from Portugal's two most important wine-producing areas: Esporao (230 to 980 yuan per bottle) and Cortes de Cima (300 to 980 yuan per bottle).

Vasco's

Where: 8 Wangfujing Dong Jie, Dongcheng District

Open: 6:30-11 am, 11:30 am – 2 pm, 5:30-9:30 pm

Tel: 5812 8888

Other Portuguese restaurant Camoes Portuguese

Where: 1/F and 2/F, Legendale Hotel Beijing, 92 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

Open: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm, 6-10:30 pm

Tel: 8511 3388 ext. 8968



Roasted home-made Portuguese sausage, two sizes at 48 and 78 yuan



Double-cooked and deep-fried Bacalhau, 48, 68 and 88 yuan



Portuguese wine is known for quality at affordable prices.

Quality wine in good prices

Although Portugal is best known for Port and Madeira, the quality of its table wines has improved dramatically in the past few decades. Portugal's agriculture ministry decided to take the next step last February by promoting the country's wines internationally.

The wine tasting sponsored by Hilton Beijing Wangfujing last week featured 200 wines from 18 producers in eight wine-growing regions, including Alentejo and Ribatejo, the home of some of the most popular Portuguese wines overseas. The event gathered wine importers, exports, as well as local wine experts.

"I cannot believe Portuguese wines are so affordable for this quality," said Cidre Lu, who runs a small wine-consulting company in town. Some bottles cost as little as 2 euros (20 yuan).

One of the most notable wines of the evening was Vinho Verde, "green wine," a light and refreshing spritz white wine produced in Portugal's northwest. A tour of local vineyards and a glass of Vinho Verde are indispensable to the itinerary of foreign visitors.

Fernando Real, a visiting chef and owner of Tromba Rija restaurant in Lisbon, picked two favorites. One was 4 Castas Red 2008 (100 to 200 yuan), made from four types of grapes – Syrah, Alicante Bouschet, Alfocheiro and Petit Verdot – and produced by Esporao, known for wines with a dominant fruity feature. Real also recommended Aragones 2007 (100 to 200 yuan), made from the distinct Aragones grapes.

We liked Cortes de Cima, which has a concentrated color, strong aroma and fruity flavors from ripe Alentejam grapes. It is produced in southern Portugal's Alentejo region, which gets abundant sunshine. The wine costs 100 to 300 yuan per bottle and is distributed by Ruo'ao International Trading based in Shanghai (Web: ruoao.com).

Most of the wines presented that evening did not yet have distributors on the Chinese mainland, but their future looks bright. The table wines by Monte Da Penha, for instance, have scored above 85 on Robert Parker's wine reviews.

People interested in Esporao wines and olive oils can contact Beijing Chun Hoi Import & Export Co. at fuadian@hotmail.com.



Cod gratin with potato onion and garlic, 68, 98 and 128 yuan

Photos by Cherry Jin

New interpretation of a Verdi classic

By He Jianwei

"Fifty years later, people would not have remembered my novel, but Verdi has made it immortal," Alexander Dumas Fils, author of *Lady of the Camellias*, said after the 1853 debut of Giuseppe Verdi's opera *La Traviata*, which was based on the Frenchman's novel.

The last in Verdi's popular trilogy, *La Traviata* has become a staple at opera houses worldwide and has been adapted for contemporary theater.

This year, the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) will present a version by Lorin Maazel, music director of the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia opera house in Valencia, Spain.

Maazel expressed interest in conducting an opera at the NCPA when he and the New York Philharmonic performed at the center two years ago. During talks this year, the maestro suggested doing *La Traviata*, which he had rearranged for the Valencia opera house; the NCPA asked him to create a new version for Beijing audiences.

Maazel has been performing *La Traviata* for five decades and expressed a special affinity for it. "The author of the novel is French and I was born in France," he said. "I have a deep understanding of French culture, and in this production, I wanted to be closer to the time period depicted in Dumas Fils' novel."

The novel unfolded in the mid-19th century, but Verdi's adaptation set the story a hundred years earlier. "We will recreate the mid-19th century in both the stage and costume design," Maazel said.

He invited German director and playwright Henning Brockhaus, an expert at turning classics into contemporary pieces, to direct the NCPA production and design the lighting. The two have collaborated numerous times during the past 20 years.

"In the (opera's) older versions, the artists tended to fail to take into account details from the novel," Brockhaus said. "I asked many people why the novel was called *Lady of the Camellias*, and almost 90 percent of the Italians I asked had no idea. The reason is that during the time, prostitutes wore a pink camellia several days a month to indicate forgiveness from their patrons."

Both Maazel and Brockhaus said they refuse to make boring operas. "Our productions will not put young audiences to sleep," they said.

Verdi's Opera *La Traviata*

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 1-6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-680 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000



Friday, May 28

Exhibition

Here There - The World in Motion 2010

The exhibition presents the works of a dozen French, Chinese and

Korean artists on globalization and the resulting cultural, economic and social transformations.

Where: Li Space, 255 Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 20, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5127 3272

Movie

Luna de Avellaneda (Moon of Avellaneda, 2004)

The Argentine film tells the story of a

social and sports club in Buenos Aires and those who tried to prevent it from being closed.

Where: Instituto Cervantes, 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm
Admission: Free (reservation by email necessary)

Email: cultipek@cervantes.org.cn

Nightlife

Fan Ren Live Show

The Taiwanese duo, which has been around for two decades, plays folk music that speaks about the simple life.

Where: Mao Livehouse, 36 Guanggu Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 150-300 yuan
Tel: 5205 1112

Saturday, May 29

Exhibition

Kids - Wang Mao Solo Exhibition

The exhibition features a series of oil paintings that reflect universal sympathy for children victimized both by natural and man-made catastrophes.

Where: XYZ Gallery, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 20, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9299

Movie

The Beach (2000) and The Fox and the Child (2007)

The first is a Hollywood movie based on Alex Garland's novel about a young nicotine-addicted traveler who

finds a map left by his neighbor who committed suicide. The second is about a farm girl who observes a fox hunt in eastern France.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District

When: 1 pm
Admission: 30 yuan for two films

Tel: 8229 6153

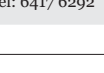
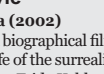
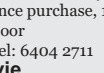
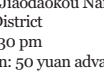
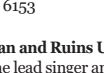
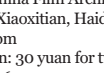
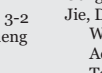
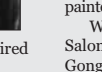
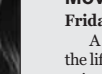
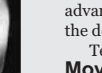
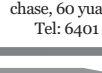
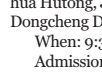
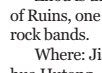
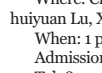
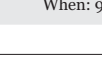
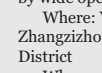
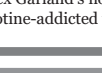
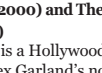
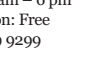
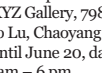
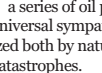
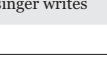
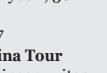
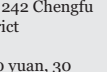
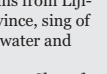
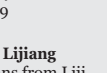
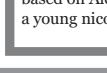
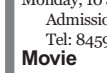
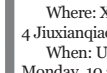
Nightlife

Zhou Yunshan and Ruins Unplugged

Zhou is the lead singer and guitarist of Ruins, one of the country's pioneering rock bands.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9:30 pm
Admission: 50 yuan advance purchase, 60 yuan at the door
Tel: 6401 4611



Upcoming

Nightlife

Norway's Sissel and the Trondheim Soloists

The Nordic nightingale Sissel performs folk songs together with the Trondheim Soloists.

Where: Peking University Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: June 2, 7 pm
Admission: 100-150 yuan
Tel: 6275 8452

Stage in June

Concert

Daniel Harding and the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 11, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-980 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Joshua Bell and the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 24, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-680 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

B-Boyz & Ballerina

Where: PLA Theater, 60 Dengshengmen Dajie, Xicheng District

When: June 4-13, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-880 yuan
Tel: 8322 0726

Behind

Where: 46 Theater, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: June 3-5, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-280 yuan
Tel: 6417 0058

Marlet by Beijing Contemporary Dance Theater

Where: Multi-Purpose Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 19-20, 7:30 pm
Admission: 160-280 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

Thunder and Rain

Where: Peking University Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: June 5, 7 pm
Admission: 80-150 yuan
Tel: 6275 8452

Musical

Love, Crazy

Where: Haidian Theater, 28 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian District

When: June 2-6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-880 yuan
Tel: 6405 4842

Opera

Verdi's La Traviata

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 1-6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-680 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

Sunday, May 30

Exhibition

Roundtrip Beijing - New York Now Selections From

the Domus Collection

The Domus Collection showcases works by five artists from Beijing and four from New York, who present snapshots of the cities' new aesthetics.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 4, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: 15 yuan
Tel: 8459 9269

Nightlife

Folk Music from Lijiang

Three musicians from Lijiang, Yunnan Province, sing of the ancient city's water and snow mountains.

Where: D-22, 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 40 yuan, 30 yuan for students
Tel: 6265 3177

Sofia Jannok China Tour

The Swedish singer writes



Sami language music inspired by wide open spaces.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 70 yuan advance purchase, 100 yuan at the door

Tel: 6404 2711

Movie

Frida (2002)

A biographical film depicting the life of the surrealist Mexican painter Frida Kahlo.

Where: Liangshe Music Salon, Room 211, Dongwai Gongguan, 2 Xinzhong Dong Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 2 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6417 6292

Keep prostate cancer at bay

By Li Zhixin

Prostate cancer kills more than 254,000 men each year, making it the second deadliest cancer in men after lung cancer, according to World Health Organization (WHO) data.

The causes of prostate cancer have yet to be explained, but some early research may be valuable in helping men to prevent the disease.

Coffee may lower risk

Men who drink coffee regularly may have a reduced risk of the most dangerous form of prostate cancer according to a study conducted by researchers from Harvard Medical School and presented at a Houston conference of the American Association for Cancer Research.

"Few studies have looked prospectively at this association and none has looked at coffee and specific prostate cancer outcomes," lead researcher Kathryn Wilson said.

Researchers studied 50,000 men between 1986 and 2006, recording their coffee consumption once every four years.

They found that the rate of advanced prostate cancer was 60 percent lower in those who drank six or more cups of coffee per day than in those who never consumed the beverage. Those who drank between four and five cups per day lowered their risk by 25 percent, while those who drank one to three cups lowered it by 20 percent.

The risk reduction was seen in both men who drank caffeinated and men who drank decaffeinated coffee.

ated coffee.

No relationship was seen between coffee consumption and the risk of developing prostate cancer, only the risk of developing cancer that progressed into an advanced stage. This might explain why prior studies found no connection between coffee drinking and prostate cancer.

The researchers are unsure how coffee affects cancer risk, although it may have something to do with levels of the sugar-regulating hormone insulin. High insulin levels previously were correlated with prostate cancer risk, and coffee has been shown to increase the body's use of the hormone.

The prostate is a male sex gland, located just below the bladder and in front of the rectum. The normal prostate is about the size of a walnut and it surrounds part of the urethra — the tube that carries urine from the bladder to the outside of the body. The prostate makes a fluid that becomes part of semen. Prostate cancer is any type of malignant growth of abnormal cells in the prostate.

Nutrition and prevention

"Your body is working overtime to fight the abnormal cells as it tries to repair healthy cells. The most natural way to support your body in its fight against cancer is to eat right and get adequate nutrition," said Rong Shi, a urologist at Beijing Union Hospital.

1. Choose balanced meals. Prostate cancer rates vary between countries, with the highest rates appearing in countries where people tend to eat a lot of fat. Men who eat diets that include a great deal of red meat have been found to have higher rates of prostate cancer.

It is unclear as to why this is. Some scientists believe that men who eat red meat are ingesting higher levels of certain types of fat and fatty acids that may be harmful to the prostate. Others feel that grilling can add dangerous chemicals to the meat that raise a man's risk of various cancers including prostate cancer.

"Opt for whole-grain foods, such as brown rice, quinoa and whole-wheat bread. Limit sweets and salt," Rong said. "Eat moderate portions and keep your calories under control."

2. Eat a variety of fruits and vegetables. A diet high in fruits and vegetables has been linked to a lower risk of various kinds of cancer. It has been shown that men who eat five to nine servings of fruit and vegetables per day have healthier hearts and lower rates of cancer than those who eat less.

Tomatoes, in particular, have been shown to lessen a man's risk of developing prostate

cancer. Lycopene, a natural chemical found in tomatoes, pink grapefruits and a few other foods, is a powerful antioxidant. Antioxidants, like lycopene, act to destroy free radicals in the body that have been shown to change normal cells into cancerous cells.

"Foods high in folate — a Vitamin B found in spinach, broccoli and asparagus — can also be helpful," Rong said.

3. Eat foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids. While a diet high in most kinds of fat is linked to a higher risk of cancer and other health problems, there is an exception; omega-3 fatty acids. This fat found in cold-water fish — such as salmon, herring and mackerel — may reduce the risk of certain cancers. Study results are mixed and some researchers say eating these fats has no effect on cancer. But these fats are still a healthy addition to your diet.

4. Eat soy products and legumes. Soybeans and other legumes contain phytoestrogens, which are plant-based chemicals that behave like the hormone estrogen in the human body. These chemicals might help to prevent prostate cancer. One explanation for lower rates of prostate cancer in Asian men is that they eat more soy protein.

5. Drink green tea. Green tea contains antioxidants such as polyphenols that can help prevent certain cancers and other health problems.

6. Get enough vitamin D. Not many foods contain vitamin D, but fish liver oil, cheese and egg yolks contain some.

Tips

1. Don't hold in your urine.

Heavy concentration of urine can stimulate the prostate gland — the urethra goes through the prostate and the prostate muscle plays a role in urine control. "Drinking more water can dilute the concentration of your urine, but remember to not hold it in," Rong said.

2. Exercise regularly. Regular exercise at 30-minute intervals three days per week is essential for prostate and total body health.

Not only does regular exercise help men to maintain a healthy weight, it also has been shown that men who exercise regularly have overall lower rates of cancer, tolerate cancer treatments far better and survive their cancer at higher rates.

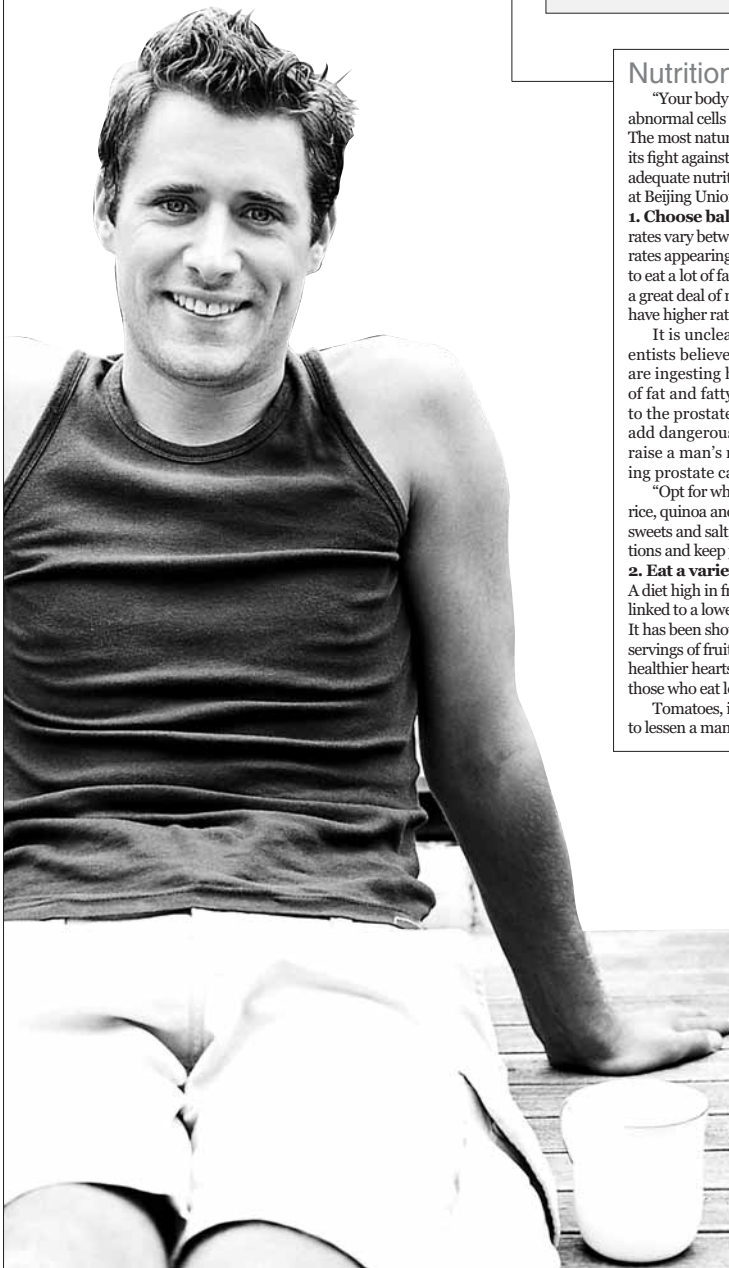
3. Control your sex life. Excessive sex will cause the prostate

gland to be chronically swollen, causing prostate hyperplasia. "So avoid abusing the prostate gland so it has time to recover," he said. "Of course, undue abstinence will harm the prostate gland too."

4. Relax. Pressure raises the risk of prostate cancer in men. Relief from pressure plays a critical role in weakening the disease, he said.

5. Keep the family jewels warm. Avoid long seats on cold benches. Cold can stimulate a man's sympathetic nervous activity to put pressure on the urethra causing the backflow of urine.

"The scrotum sweats a lot, and together with poor ventilation can provide a fertile home for viruses and bacteria. Cleaning the area daily is an important step in preventing prostate cancer," he said.



Taiwan in Beijing

Commercial street boosts island's oomph

By Zhang Dongya

Taiwanese tourism is seeing a boom on the mainland this month. Credit goes to Taiwan Street, a commercial street featuring Taiwanese products, opened in early May.

The street and efforts by the Taiwan Guild and the Taiwan Straits Tourism Association have allowed mainlanders to glimpse traditional and contemporary life on the island and heightened interest in cross-strait travel.



Taiwan Street brings to the capital Taiwanese shops, restaurants and leisure organizations.

CFP Photo

Street of Taiwan food and other goods

Taiwan Street is located adjacent to the Beijing International Sculpture Park and a block away from Wanda Plaza, the busiest section of Shijingshan District.

The street is lined with 12 buildings combining classical architecture with the design of traditional houses in Fujian Province – a major influence on Taiwan's culture and language. The buildings contain some 160 stores promoting all things Taiwanese, and are divided into three blocks according to product type: restaurants, snacks and recreational organizations.

One of the buildings is Taiwan Best 100 shopping mall, which opened the same day as the street and offers popular Taiwanese food brands like Wantwant and Yilan Food. Wantwant, in particular, is known for its jelly and milk products that are also sold in Beijing supermarkets.

The mall also offers Taiwanese cakes, fruits, teas, liquor, as well as porcelain and coral accessories. Some skin-care products on display – popular among women – will be sold next month.

It is said that Taiwan will evaluate its best products every two years, and only those that make the grade can be sold at the mall. Its merchandise will be updated depending on feedback and demand.

One of the restaurants in the mall is a homage to Teresa Teng, one of the most popular and influential Taiwanese singers on the mainland. Owned by the singer's family, its first location was opened in Shanghai three years

ago, followed by one in Hangzhou. The restaurants' dishes and VIP rooms are named after Teng's songs, and their walls are adorned with photos of the artist, as well as her DVDs and memorabilia.

In the evening, the mall's basement plays host to a night market featuring Taiwanese snacks and folk performances.

Behind the mall is a replica of the Five Osmanthus Pavilion, a symbol of Taiwanese history and culture, which will serve as an exhibition area for cultural exchange between Taiwan and the mainland. It is currently exhibiting the history of the Lin family of Wufeng Town, one of the island's biggest clans. The original pavilion was built in Wufeng, Taizhong County, in 1906 and was named after five osmanthus trees in front of the building.

The administration of Taiwan Street is planning to hold Taiwan-style temple fairs on the street and in the neighboring Beijing International Sculpture Park, which will present puppet shows, indigenous dances, Taiwan cross talk and magic shows.

More businesses and organizations are expected to open stores in the next two months.

Taiwan Street in Beijing

Where: Southeast of Beijing International Sculpture Park, 2 Shijingshan Lu, Shijingshan District

Getting there: Take Subway Line 1 to Babaoshan Station, or take bus 337, 389, 450, 620, 728 or 941 to Babaoshan stop

Tel: 6865 6688

Continued on page 21...



More shops are set to open on the street in two months.



A Teresa Teng music-themed restaurant will open its Beijing location in two months.



The street sells Taiwanese specialties like fruits and teas. CFP Photo



Taiwanese liquor sold at Taiwan Best 100 shopping mall

Photos by Jason Wang



... continued from page 20

Home of Taiwan Guild gets face-lift

The Taiwan Guild office, located in Dajiang Hutong, Chongwen District, reopened its doors on the same day Taiwan Street was inaugurated.

Constructed in 1890, the building once served as a base for Taiwanese people who came to the capital to study, take the civil-service exams or do business. It was originally located in Houtiechang Hutong on Xuanwumen Avenue, and became home to Taiwanese celebrities like the writer Lin Haiyin. Now it is a nerve center of exchanges and cooperation between Taiwan and the mainland.

The renovated compound, cov-

ering 3,800 square meters – 10 times the old area – houses the neighboring Yunjian Guild and the Fude Buddhist Temple. It features wood-and-brick buildings characteristic of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912) and was designed by Taiwanese architects.

The guild is now sponsoring an exhibition of old photographs and artifacts, which speak about the Taiwanese people's activities in Beijing in the 19th century. At the folk culture section is a stage built for Taiwanese puppet shows.

A commercial block named Imagine Taiwan is scheduled to open in the

area on National Day. With the guild as its operations center, the block is expected to include about 300 new stores, a Taiwan Ancient Street, Ali Mountain Plaza and themed shopping malls.

The guild compound is currently open only to groups; it will open to individual visitors in June.

Taiwan Guild

Where: 114 Dajiang Hutong, Qianmen Dong Lu, Chongwen District

Getting there: Take Subway Line 2 to Qianmen station, or take bus 5, 22, 66, 729 or 803 to Qianmen stop

Tourism associations open offices to boost business

The Taiwan Strait Tourism Association (TSTA) opened Beijing offices around Jianguomen early this month to provide information for mainland tourists and promote attractions in Taiwan. Three days later, the mainland's Cross-Strait Tourism Exchange Association established an office in Taipei.

Besides well-known sites like Sun Moon Lake and Ali Mountain, the island also offers agricultural tours, body- and health-care packages,

hot-spring holidays, Taiwanese food adventures and honeymoon specials.

TSTA and the tourism exchange association are hoping to enhance communication and understanding between people in Taiwan and on the mainland through traveling.

According to statistics, 600,000 mainlanders visited Taiwan last year. For the first trimester of this year, already 400,000 people have traveled to the island, leading officials to believe that Taiwan-bound main-

land tourists will surpass the 1 million mark by year end

Taiwan Strait Tourism Association

Where: 29/F West Tower, LG Twin Towers, Yi 12 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Getting there: Take Subway Line 1 to Yongnanli station, or take bus 1, 9, 37, 43, 126, 673, 729 or 801 to Yongnanli Lukou Xi stop

Tel: 6566 4100 ext. 207



The 120-year-old Taiwan Guild office reopened this month after undergoing extensive renovation.

CFP Photos

Dine as you please

By Jackie Zhang

The street beside the West gate of Chaoyang Park is no stranger to diners. Its restaurants serve up authentic Chinese, Italian and Japanese foods.

The street crosses Lucky Street in the north where there are even more options to satisfy picky stomachs.

Several new restaurants have opened on the street in the last few months, and fans of barbeque, lobster and Italian cuisine are in for a treat.

Chaoyang Gongyuan Xi Lu



Jiaozi an eternal favorite

By Zhang Dongya

Jiaozi is a staple at Chinese tables, and a new restaurant by the bistros of Chaoyang Park is folding home-made favorites.

Decked out in bright red, the interior is distinctly Chinese with Peking Opera masks and paper umbrellas. The restaurant can serve 90 people in its second and third floor dining areas.

The simple menu, with both Chinese and English translations, begins with a folk tale about the Han Dynasty physician Zhang Zhongjing who made *jiaozi* to treat his patients — a tradition DingLe continues today.

The restaurant does dump-

lings with a variety of fillings including pork, mutton, beef, chicken with vegetables, and seafood.

The manager said the most popular fillings are pork and green onion, pork and leek as well as mutton and carrot. Recent vegetarian trends have also popularized fillings of egg and tomato (16 yuan for 10) and mushrooms, black fungus and bamboo shoot (22 yuan).

DingLe also serves homemade stir-fry dishes, wonton and noodles.

There is an open kitchen in the first dining hall where customers can see the chef at work.

This month the restaurant is

starting to maintain night hours for late eaters. Snacks like mutton cubes roasted on skewers and pickled vegetables are served till 3 or 4 am.

Cold dishes are served on big plates for hungry night diners. The most recommended are beef slices in garlic sauce (28 yuan), potato salad (18 yuan) and chicory sprouts with almonds (18 yuan).

Only local drinks like Red Star Erguotou and Qingdao beer are available.

DingLe Dumpling

Where: 1 Nongzhan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am - 3:30 am next day

Tel: 6594 0938



Museum playground sparks imagination



Toddler Land



World of water



Car services



Tale of magic bean

Photos by Mockingbird

By Zhang Dongya

The early childhood education system in the US is known for encouraging imagination.

Aimed to inspire that creativity at home, The Magic Bean House opened in January as the country's first American-designed children's museum.

The small museum has 8 exhibits and programs designed for children under eight years old.

A giant beanstalk near the entrance marks the beginning of a creative journey where visitors can test their skills by passing an ancient drawbridge, spinning a water wheel, finding a king's treasures and playing king. Children pass the obstacles on their own without the help of their parents.

The museum's Green Foods is a miniature grocery store with healthy foods like eggs, vegetables, fruit and dairy products. Children can experience shopping in the market before trying it in real life. It gives them a chance to pick and choose products from the shelves, put them in a grocery cart and check out at the cash register.

Bricks and Blocks is a house where children can work as bricklayers, painters, electricians or plumbers. There is a miniature kitchen where they can experience chopping food and cooking on their own.

In addition to its life-skills training, the museum also has scientific facilities. At World of Water, children learn the physics behind water currents with buckets, pulleys and gears. In the Experimental Hall they can experiment on a simulated plant to learn about physics.

For those under two the museum has Toddler Land, a soft and safe environment for exploration.

The museum's structures are made in bright colors from child-safe materials. It is closed the last Tuesday each month for routine equipment maintenance.

Magic Bean House Children's Museum

Where: 7 Chaoyang Gongyuan Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 400-888-0722

Open: 10 am - 6 pm, 9 am - 8 pm (Weekends)

Cost: (one child and one parent for 4 hours)

0-6 months, free

6 months-2 years, 40 yuan

2-8 years, 80 yuan

Lucky Street



Presenting lobsters from North America

By Liang Meilan

Lobster House brings to the capital a specialty of North American seaside towns: lobster prepared more than 30 ways.

Its owner, Lu Wentao, a Sichuan native, learned the lobster business while living in the US for 10 years, and now wants to share his expertise with Beijingers. "We've introduced the concept of dining on 'real lobster' from the US and are devoted to specializing in lobster cooking." The restaurant serves only Boston lobsters shipped from the US or Canada.

Lu compared creating a new dish to conducting experiments in the kitchen. "The lobster is an interesting creature. You have to first know its habits and the quality of its meat at different seasons so you can adapt your cooking style," he said, describing the flavor of their dishes as "fusions of Sichuanese, Cantonese, Hunanese, Thai, as well as Western cooking styles."

The cozy, two-story restaurant has become a haunt of seafood lovers since it was opened in January. On evenings and weekends, there are long lines at the door. To thank its patrons and to attract more customers, Lobster House is now offering discounts and coupons.

"One of our most popular promotions is the 'buy one, get one free' on the customer favorite baked lobster with fresh cream and black pepper," Lu said. The lobster is cut into large pieces, coated with flour and then deep-fried. When done, a sauce of fresh cream and black peppers is poured on it, then it is served with onions and potato chips. The dish normally costs 299 yuan per order.

Lu also recommends the following lobster dishes: French style lobster, Thai sour lobster and Sichuan hot lobster. Lobsters are 299 yuan for half a kilogram, and can be cooked any way desired.

But Lobster House is more than lobsters: it also offers creative Chinese dishes. One member of fantong.com, a gourmet site, said its fruit salad "tastes like ice cream because the fruits are ground finely, which is really creative and delicious."

Lobster House

Where: 1-14 Lucky Street, Chaoyang

Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 5867 0299



Photos provided by Lobster House



Photos provided by Luo Gang

Healthier option for Korean-barbeque lovers

By Liang Meilan

Thanks Giving specializes in Korean barbecue, but it looks more like a romantic coffee shop or a quiet pub than your stereotypical smoky, crowded grill house. The brown and beige restaurant is accented with fancy crystal lamps.

And unlike most barbecue places that use charcoal grills - which produce soot and other pollutants harmful to the body - Thanks Giving has installed infrared ovens for customer use. "Heat is generated by the release of infrared rays and plasmas, which heat the meat evenly," Luo Gang, the restaurant manager, said. "The oven also avoids oily smoke and splashes of oil." He said the cooking device helps keep the meat juicy and nutritious.

Thanks Giving's healthier options begin with its menu design, which provides the nutrition information for each dish, as well as tips for making a good barbecue. "Our servers stand beside diners to help them do the barbecue while providing tips and other information. But customers can also choose to cook the food on their own," Luo said.

He said the meats they serve undergo 18 stages of "cleaning" before they make it to the dining table. "This is to remove bacteria and transform proteins into amino acid. Well-processed meats are digested more easily and are healthier and tastier," he said.

The restaurant's specialties include short ribs with bone (68 yuan), Xuelong



beef (95 yuan), Dalian seafood (26 yuan), air-dried sausage (32 yuan) and barbecued pickles (15 yuan).

Xuelong beef comes from Xuelong cows raised in a pollution-free prairie in Dalian city, and are fed beer, hay and natural grains. Their meat is on par with Japan's famous Kobe beef, Luo said.

Thanks Giving

Where: A1-8 Lucky Street, Chaoyang

Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 10 am - 11 pm

Tel: 5867 0286

Dining and shopping at Napoli restaurant

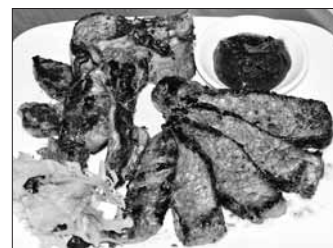


Photo by Di Napoli Ristorante

By Liang Meilan

"The name says everything that makes the restaurant special," said Nancy, co-owner of the Italian restaurant Napoli. "Only a restaurant that offers authentic Italian food will dare use the name Napoli, the birthplace of pizza."

Aside from the locally produced seasonal vegetables and meat, everything that Napoli serves comes from Italy - courtesy of an Italian co-owner involved in the food-export business. "Many restaurants and food stores in Beijing actually buy cooking ingredients from him," Nancy said. With this secret weapon, it is no wonder Napoli has already created a buzz in the Beijing dining scene though it has only been around for eight months.

The restaurant specializes in Florence-style T-bone steak, which weighs at least 1 kilogram per serving. "The dish was developed by our top chef from Italy three years ago," Nancy said. "The super-size steak is a hit among heavy meat eaters."

And what is an Italian restaurant without pasta?

"To stay competitive, one has to make pasta well and in different ways," she said. "We have nothing to worry about since we offer 15 pasta dishes."

Napoli's most popular pasta is the lasagna Bolognese (58 yuan), hand-made lasagna with meat-flavored tomato sauce. "The texture is superb because the dough is mixed with plenty of yolks," Nancy said.

The restaurant also sells Italian wine and other imported liquor in a room on the right side of the entrance when you walk in. They are available to both retailers and wholesalers.

Behind the bar, meanwhile, is a shopping area for cooking ingredients and packed food. "Baronia spaghetti and Pomilis cherry tomato sauce are among our most popular products," Nancy said.

Di Napoli Ristorante

(Napoli Restaurant)

Where: C10-1 Lucky Street, Chaoyang

Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 11 pm

Tel: 5867 0263



Photo by Jeffrey Lau



West Gate of Chaoyang Park

A. Eryueer Spring Pancake Restaurant

Open: 10 am – midnight
Tel: 6460 5986
Cost: 50 yuan per person

B. Four Seasons Japanese Restaurant

Open 11 am – 10:30 pm
Tel: 6502 2280
Cost: 150-200 yuan per person

C. Suzie Wong

Open: 7 pm – 4 am next day
Tel: 6593 6049
Cost: 70 yuan per person

D. Jenny Lou's Grocery

Open: 8 am – midnight
Tel: 6461 6928

E. Annie's

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 6591 1931

Cost: 80 yuan per person

F. Fat Mother Sichuan Hot Pot

Open: 11 am – 2 am next day
Tel: 6500 6919

Cost: 50-100 yuan per person, credit cards accepted

G. Souk Lounge

Open: 4 pm – late

Tel: 6506 7309

Cost: 50 yuan per person

H. An Die An Niang

Open: 10:30 am – 9:30 pm

Tel: 6595 1122

Cost: 30-50 yuan per person

I. MUSE

Open: 11 am – 11:30 pm

Tel: 6586 3188

Cost: 70 yuan per person

J. Black Sun Bar

Open: 5:30 pm – 3 am next day

Tel: 6593 6909

Cost: 50-100 yuan per person

K. Dingle Dumpling

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 6594 0938

Cost: 50 yuan per person

L. Gui Zhou Luoluo

Suantang Yu

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6594-0939

Cost: 100 yuan per person

M. OTTO's Restaurant

Open: 9 am - 4 am the next day

Tel: 6593 1078

Cost: 50 yuan per person

N. Fu Ze Hotpot

Open: 24 hours

Tel: 6593 1082

Cost: 100 yuan per person, international credit cards accepted

O. Good Fortune Grill

Open: 24 hours

Tel: 6593 6599

Cost: 80 yuan per person

P. Dongzhimen Yangxiezi

Open: 24 hours

Tel: 6586 1301

Cost: 50-70 yuan per person

Q. No. 8 Plaza

Open: 24 hours

Tel: 6508 9999

R. Magic Bean House

Children's Museum

Open: 10 am – 6 pm (Monday -

Friday), 9 am – 10 pm (Weekends)

Tel: 400 888 0722

Lucky Street

1. Hong Kong Seafood Hot Pot

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 5867 0260, 5867 0290

Cost: 60-100 yuan per person

2. Di Napoli Italian Ristorante

Open: 10 am – 11 pm

Tel: 5867 0263

Cost: 100 yuan per person

3. Berena's Bistro

Open: 11:30 am – 11:30 pm

Tel: 5867 0266

Cost: 50-100 yuan per person

4. La Mansarde

Open: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm,

6-8:30 pm

Tel: 5867 0255

Cost: 80-200 yuan per person

5. Edomae Sushi

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm,

4:30-9:30 pm

Tel: 5867 0293

Cost: 100-200 yuan per person

6. Punjabi Indian Restaurant

Open: 24 hours

Tel: 5867 0221, 5867 0223

Cost: 50 yuan per person

7. Ottoman Cuisine

Open: 10 am – 11 pm

Tel: 5867 0210

Cost: 50 yuan per person

8. Yupintang

Open: 9 am – 9 pm

Tel: 5867 0251

9. Japanese Teppanyaki Restaurant

Open: 11:30 am – 11:30 pm

Tel: 5867 0248

Cost: 100-180 yuan per person

10. Elisa's Italian Restaurant

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 5867 0291

Cost: 50-100 yuan per person

11. South German Bakery

Open: 9 am – midnight

Tel: 5867 0201

Cost: 50-150 yuan per person

12. Nashville Bar & Restaurant

Open: 11 am – 3 am next day

Tel: 5867 0298

Cost: 50 yuan per person

13. Caoyong International Gallery

Open: 1 – 10 pm

Tel: 5867 0229

14. Uama Teppanyaki Show Restaurant

Open: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm,

5:30-10 pm

Tel: 5867 0238

Cost: 100-120 yuan per person

15. Lohao City

Open: 9 am – 10 pm

Tel: 5867 0265 ext. 806

Cost: 150 yuan per person

16. Kurazan Japanese Restaurant

Open: 10 am – 2 pm, 5:30-10:30

pm

Tel: 5867 0281

Cost: 100-150 yuan per person

17. Qing Hai Japanese Cuisine

Open: 11:30 am – 2 pm, 5 – 10

pm

Tel: 5867 0218

Cost: 100 yuan per person

18. Sukhothai Thai Restaurant

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 5-10

pm (5 pm – midnight, Friday and

Saturday)

Tel: 5867 0211

Cost: 100-150 yuan per person

19. Ninety Lobster House

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 5867 0299

Cost: 80-150 yuan per person

20. Matsudka Japanese Restaurant

Open: 11:30 am – 2 pm, 5:30-10

pm

Tel: 5867 0231

Cost: 150-200 yuan per person

21. Jian Shan Massage Chamber

Open: 9 am – midnight

Tel: 5867 0261

22. Jiayi Nail Salon

Open: 10:30 am-10:30 pm

Tel: 5867 0252

23. Thanks Giving BBQ Special

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 5867 0286

Cost: 75 yuan per person

24. Sumi No Ya

Open: 11:30 am – 2 pm, 5:30

pm – midnight

Tel: 5867 0205

Cost: 100-150 yuan per person

25. Fang Fei Café

Open: 9 am – 2 am next day

Tel: 5867 0206

Cost: 30 yuan per person

26. Nanguo Ziyuxuan

Open: 10 am – 2 am next day

Tel: 5867 0279

Cost: 60 yuan per person

27. Jiuliange Tea

Open: 9:30 am – 1 am next day

Tel: 5867 0208

Cost: At least 58 yuan per

person

28. Wuzhuxuan

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 5867 0285

Cost: 100-500 yuan per person

(By Jackie Zhang)

West Gate of Chaoyang Park
& Lucky Street (Illustrated by Jiao Shu)